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REMOVAL OF BRITISH PROHIBITION ON ORANGES.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Sept. 28.]

The prohibition on the importation of oranges except in specially licensed ships has been canceled. [As originally announced (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 8) the import prohibition applied to oranges not produced in British territories and not carried in specially licensed vessels.]

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS FOR SCANDINAVIA.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Sept. 29.]

In extension of the rationing policy, no export licenses will be granted until further notice for the shipment of vaseline and casings to Denmark, manufactures of rubber and balata to Holland, and of powdered talc to Sweden. No facilities will be extended for the shipment of the same commodities from the United States to the same destinations.

EXPORTATION OF COPPER FROM NORWAY.

The Department of State is in receipt of information from the American Minister at Christiania to the effect that the agreement entered into between the Governments of Great Britain and Norway regarding the exportation from the latter country of raw copper, has now been subjected to change, and that the 3,000 tons of copper thought to be immediately available will not be released at present.

[A notice regarding this arrangement was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 7, 1916.]

AMERICAN COMPANY BUYS CHILEAN MINING PROPERTIES.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Aug. 10.]

According to newspaper reports the Chile Exploration Co. (a subsidiary of the American Smelting & Refining Co. of New York) has purchased the copper mining properties of the Compañia Minera de Calama for the sum of 7,100,00 Chilean pesos (paper), equal at 9 pence exchange to about \$1,280,000 United States currency. The purchase is said to include the claims known as "Rosario del Llano," "Buena Vista," "Patagonia," "Panizo," "Poderosa," and "Carolina."

CANADIAN GRAIN-CROP ESTIMATES.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Sept. 22.]

According to a recent report of the Census and Statistics Office, giving a preliminary estimate of the yield of the principal grain crops of Canada in 1916, it is estimated that of the area sown about 13.7 per cent of spring wheat, 8 per cent of oats, 5 per cent of barley, and 1.8 per cent of flax will fail to produce any crop of grain. Deducting these percentages and a small percentage of grain cut for green feed, it is estimated that the total yield of wheat this year will be 168,811,000 bushels from a harvested area of 10,085,300 acres, as compared with 376,303,600 bushels from 12,986,400 acres last year. The estimate slightly exceeds, however, the crop of 1914, which was 161,280,000 bushels from 10,293,900 acres. The average yield per acre this year is 16½ bushels, as compared with 29 bushels in the year 1915.

The estimate for oats is a total yield of 341,602,000 bushels from 9,795,000 acres, contrasted with 520,103,000 bushels from 11,365,000 acres in 1915, the average yield per acre this year being 34.88, as against 45.76 in 1915. For rye the estimate is 1,990,800 bushels, as compared with 2,394,100 bushels in 1915, the yield per acre being 19.63 bushels this year compared with 21.32 bushels in 1915. The yield of barley this year is estimated at 34,408,000 bushels from 1,326,800 acres. In the year 1915 53,331,300 bushels of barley were produced from 1,509,350 acres. The flaxseed estimate is for 8,625,300 bushels from 710,000 acres, an average of 12.15 bushels per acre.

The three northwest Provinces are estimated to have produced 145,466,000 bushels of wheat, 243,114,000 bushels of oats, 24,502,000 bushels of barley, 601,000 bushels of rye, and 8,572,000 bushels of flax. The average yields per acre of wheat were: In Manitoba, 10½ bushels; in Saskatchewan, 16 bushels; and in Alberta, 24½ bushels.

At the end of August the condition of field crops, expressed in percentage of a standard representing a full crop, was as follows: Spring wheat, 69; oats, 74; barley, 73; rye, 80; peas, 68; corn for husking, 67; potatoes, 72; alfalfa, 94; corn for fodder, 77; pasture, 86; and hay and clover, 103.

PRISON REFORM IN PERU.

[Commercial Attaché Wm. F. Montavon, Lima, Aug. 24.]

On August 22 the National Legislature of Peru passed a law authorizing the wardens of the national penitentiaries of Peru to employ long-term prisoners at labor outside the prison inclosures. The law specifies that the work to be done by the prisoners must be on public works of the State or on work connected with institutions of a public character.

Prior to the adoption of this law it had been illegal in Peru to employ prisoners on any work outside the prison inclosure. During the month of July, 1916, the unusual spectacle was seen in Lima of the following announcement on the front doors of the national prison: "Se necesitan Peones" ("Laborers wanted"). The warden of the prison was cleaning up the exterior walls of the prison, and it seems the prisoners themselves could not be employed on this work because of the fact that it was not within the prison inclosure.

CANADIANS INTERESTED IN TOY-MAKING PROGRESS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Sept. 20.]

The Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce has issued a supplement to its Weekly Bulletin containing material which shows the interest taken in Canada in the making of toys. Some points which should be noted by toy makers in the United States are presented, including the following:

Such toys as picture ugly characters and monstrosities may well be ignored by new producers, in favor of artistic and instructive kinds.

In such districts as that of Quebec, where the winters are long and families are large, toys can be cheaply and easily made in homes. Old people and disabled soldiers might be interested in such manufacture, which on a small scale requires very little if any capital, and no hard labor.

Would Engage Artists to Design New Patterns.

All toys should be labeled as made in this country. Artists should be engaged to design new patterns for toy workers. Women, as the principal purchasers of toys, should be asked to buy home products even if the cost of production exceeds that of countries where the standard of living is lower. There should be encouragement of the manufacture of wood flour, which is a factor in many imported toy varieties.

It is well not to make large quantities of any one kind before orders are placed from samples shown. This will prevent manufacture of a wasteful nature in its results.

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1914, Canada imported toys worth \$1,037,000, of which \$580,000 worth came from Germany, and the United States furnished \$293,000 worth. Two years later, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, Canada's toy imports were valued at \$642,190, of which the United States furnished \$476,581 worth, an increase both proportionately and actually.

Interested in Methods of American Producers.

Canadian toy makers feel that similar conditions in the United States and in Canada justify their following the example of American producers of toys. While they believe that labor on this side of the Atlantic can not compete with that of Europe in the toy industry, it is contended that toys can be made by machine even more cheaply and just as satisfactorily to the trade as the handmade product of Europe. The material for wooden toys is not an expensive factor, since the short pieces, trimmings, scraps, and sawdust, formerly thrown away by lumber concerns, are purchased at a low cost by toy makers.

[Copies of "Toy Making in Canada," the supplement to the Canadian Weekly Bulletin, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80528. Canadian toy fairs were described in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 5 and Aug. 15, 1916.]

GREAT BRITAIN HONORS CAPTAIN OF AMERICAN SHIP.

Secretary Redfield has sent to Capt. George H. Cooke, of the American steamer *Camino*, through the United States shipping commissioner at San Francisco, a silver loving cup which was awarded to Capt. Cooke by the Government of Great Britain in appreciation of the valor displayed by the officers and crew in rescuing a number of survivors of the British steamship *Ross*, which was sunk in the south Atlantic Ocean on April 25, 1916, while on a voyage from Seville, Spain, to Troon, Scotland.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR JULY.

[Commercial Agent J. F. Boomer, Manila, Aug. 19.]

The foreign commerce of the Philippine Islands for July, 1916, was considerably greater than for the corresponding month in 1915. This increase was due to the greater exports. The imports for the month were less by \$46,390 than in July, 1915, while the exports increased by \$359,461. The favorable balance of trade for the year up to and including July amounted to \$18,750,000.

The imports for July, 1916, exceeded those for June by approximately \$1,250,000. The indications are that for the remaining months of 1916 the exports and imports will be more nearly equal.

Trade in Sugar and Hemp.

The exports of sugar for July, 1916, showed a material slump as compared with those for July, 1915, namely, \$1,231,567. Inasmuch as the first six months of 1916 each showed an excess in sugar exports over the corresponding months of 1915, it is evident that the stocks on hand have become exhausted. The reverse was true for the year 1915; the early shipments were comparatively small, whereas the last half of the year saw a marked increase due to available transportation and to rising price. A comparison of prices paid for sugar during these months explains the causes of the early movement of sugar stocks during the current year. The average price of sugar for June, 1915, was \$51 per ton as compared with \$61 per ton for June, 1916. In July, 1915, the average price was \$54 per ton, whereas for July, 1916, it was \$56.50.

A notable feature in the hemp trade was the higher prices that prevailed during July, 1916. Whereas the quantity of hemp exported for July, 1915, was over 96 per cent of that exported for the same period in 1916, the value of the exports for July, 1915, was only a little over 69 per cent of the value of the exports for the month of July of the current year. The value of the hemp exported for July, 1916, was \$2,757,851 as against \$1,917,103 for July, 1915. The average price per ton for July of this year was \$205.50, as compared with \$149.50 for July, 1915.

Greater Exports of Tobacco and Cigars.

There was a marked increase in the exports of leaf tobacco for July of this year as compared with the corresponding month of last year, the increase in value being approximately \$500,000. This gain, however, was due largely to the shipment of accumulated stocks during the month. The prevailing higher prices also contributed to the increased value. The average value per ton for leaf tobacco for July, 1916, was \$160 as compared with \$146 for July, 1915. There was an even greater difference in June, 1916, as compared with the same month of last year; during the former it was \$251.50 and during the latter \$154.50.

Cigars also show an increase of nearly 100 per cent in the number exported during July of this year, as compared with the same month last year. The value of the exports, however, only increased a little more than 45 per cent. This fact is accounted for by the cheaper grades of cigars exported for July, 1916. The average value per thousand of the cigars exported during July, 1915, was \$15.50, against \$13 in July of this year.

Shipments of Copra and Coconut Oil.

Copra, the other great staple of the Philippines, also shows a slight gain in the value of exports for the month as compared with July of last year; the quantity, however, was slightly less. Here again the better price obtained accounts for the difference. This staple has shown a decline from normal exportation during the last six months of approximately \$5,500,000. The average price per ton for copra in July, 1915, was \$75.50, whereas for July, 1916, the average price was \$114.

A decrease from 1,631,088 kilos in July, 1915, to 22,004 kilos in July of this year in the amount of coconut oil exported was due largely to the lack of shipping facilities. One of the companies has recently added a soap factory to its plant. This probably accounts for some of the decrease in the exportation of coconut oil.

The United States and the Philippine Trade.

Regarding the trend of the foreign trade of the islands, the United States continues to increase the proportion controlled. For example, in June, 1916, the United States supplied 42.92 per cent of the total imports of the islands, and in July 62.06 per cent. The proportion of imports furnished by various other countries decreased materially. That of Japan dropped from 11.94 to 9.57 per cent; that of the United Kingdom from 4.65 to 1.14 per cent; that of Australasia from 4.31 to 1.01 per cent, and that of the French East Indies from 16.30 to 15.37 per cent.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....		1200 Entaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, C. Lester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.....	Nov. 12	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Cum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.....	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.

* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

Statistics just completed by the United States Geological Survey show that more natural gas was used in the United States in 1915 than in any other year. The quantity used was 628,578,842,000 cubic feet, which exceeds by nearly 37,000,000,000 cubic feet, or 6 per cent, the former record, established in 1914. Credit for the increased production of natural gas belongs to Ohio, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and California.

MARSEILLE-RHONE CANAL AND ROVE TUNNEL.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, France, Sept. 11.]

Inquiries have been received concerning the actual state of the Marseille-Rhone Canal, to which the American press has recently devoted numerous articles. Most of the inquirers appear to be under the impression that the canal is practically completed, and will soon be open to navigation. As a matter of fact, a considerable amount of work remains to be done, as shown by the following statement from Mr. Bezault, the chief engineer in charge of the undertaking:

One of the three opening galleries of the Rove Tunnel is completed the entire length (7,200 meters, or 23,622 feet). The portion above the towpath is finished on half of the length. The canal ditch in the tunnel is not begun.

Between Marseille and Port-de-Bouc the breakwaters in the Mediterranean and in the Etang de Berre are almost completed. Between Port-de-Bouc and Arles, the work begun before the war is being continued. The locks at Arles on the Rhone are built.

The total cost of the canal is estimated at 92,000,000 francs (\$17,756,000), including 55,000,000 francs (\$10,615,000) for the Rove Tunnel and its approaches.

It is difficult to fix a date for the completion of the work.

Utilization of Etang de Berre Discussed.

A meeting of local business men was held September 8, 1916, at the Marseille Chamber of Commerce, for a discussion of measures for the practical utilization of the Etang de Berre. M. Thierry, Under Secretary of War, was present. The president of the chamber of commerce stated that the proper equipment of the Etang de Berre would probably increase the shipping tonnage at Marseille from 10,000,000 tons to a much larger amount, and make it the leading port in continental Europe. Speaking of the Rove Tunnel, he said that it had attracted attention the world over, but particularly in the United States. He added:

I have a firm offer of American capital for the development of the Etang de Berre itself. America is also inquiring as to whether the shores of the Etang de Berre do not provide an ideal location for petroleum tanks of sufficient capacity to meet all the needs of the Marseille hinterland and export zone.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted urging the Government to take steps as soon as possible to deepen the entrance of the port of Bouc and the channel to the Etang de Berre, so as to render it accessible to seagoing vessels. The meeting also recommended the creation of free zones in the French seaports.

About One-third of Tunnel Still Unfinished.

About one-third of the Rove Tunnel is still unfinished, and it can be said that the greater part of the construction work of the Marseille-Rhone Canal has been done. But this new water route is not expected to be available for several years.

The chief interest of the Marseille-Rhone Canal appears to lie in the industrial and commercial possibilities of the territory surrounding the Etang de Berre, a salt lake covering an area of nearly 40,000 acres, which will become accessible both to seagoing vessels through Port-de-Bouc and Martigues and to barges from Marseille through the Rove Tunnel. Mr. Hubert Giraud, of the Marseille Chamber of Commerce, in an interesting report to that chamber said:

The immense Berre Basin with its shore line of 68 kilometers (42.25 miles) offers an extremely favorable field for the establishment of the most varied

industries. It is well sheltered, and it would be possible with a little dredging to build piers on its shores at a moderate cost alongside which seagoing vessels could lie. Raw materials would thus be brought to the factory doors at small expense. Manufactured products could later be shipped to their destinations by various commercial routes.

Advantages Offered by Canal and Tunnel.

By the canal and the Rove Tunnel export goods loaded in barges could be brought to Marseille alongside the ships on which they would be taken overseas. It will no longer be necessary to use seagoing barges, with special equipment and of inconvenient size. The small auxiliary boats now used in the port of Marseille would be sufficient for this purpose. Merchandise intended for the interior of the country will have the choice between the canal leading to Arles and the Rhone and the railway route. The railway lines encircle completely the Etang de Berre. The principal line from Marseille to Lyon runs at a short distance from the shore on the eastern side. The new line from Miramas to the Estaque serves the western coast, Port-de-Bouc and the Etang de Caroute. Finally, the local line from Pas-de-Lanciers to Martigues completes the circuit, running parallel to the canal, along the southern side of the Etang de Berre. From every point sidings could easily be established, and the factories, in direct contact with the sea and railway, will find the most favorable conditions required for the operation of modern plants.

The Marseille Chamber of Commerce states that the development of the Etang de Berre is a necessary consequence of the new water route.

Deepening and Widening of Waterways.

The present plans are to deepen the entrance channel to Port-de-Bouc to a depth of 9 meters (29.52 feet); to give the same depth to the Port-de-Bouc Harbor and to the canal connecting Port-de-Bouc and Martigues; to widen this canal to at least 60 meters (196.58 feet); to create at Martigues an outlet into the Etang de Berre, with a passage of 40 meters (131.23 feet), spanned by a turning bridge, and to deepen the channel in the Etang de Berre to 9 meters (29.52 feet). These improvements would be carried out so as to make it possible to carry the depths to 10 meters (32.81 feet) whenever required.

The Etang de Berre is separated from the Mediterranean by a range of hills, averaging 9 kilometers (5.59 miles), in width and from 100 to 250 meters (328 to 820 feet) high. The depth of water is very variable, but there is an area of more than 6,000 hectares (14,826 acres) with a depth of at least 9 meters (29.52 feet). The importance of such an addition to the port of Marseille will be realized when it is recalled that the total area of the Marseille docks is 225 hectares (556 acres).

Large Industrial Plants to be Built.

It is reported that several French and foreign companies have already acquired sites in this region and intend to erect large industrial plants; but as it is also proposed to reclaim a fairly large tract of land for industrial purposes in the immediate vicinity of the Marseille terminal of the canal, the industrial development of the Etang de Berre may be somewhat delayed.

Although the Marseille-Rhone Canal has been extensively described, it may be useful to recall its chief characteristics: It is a sea-level canal 81 kilometers (50.33 miles) in length. It starts from the northern extremity of the port of Marseille, follows the coast up to the small port of La Lave, a little beyond the Estaque Harbor,

then crosses the Rove Mountain in a straight line through a tunnel 7,200 meters (23,622 feet) in length, and runs along the southern shores of the Etang de Bolmon and the Etang de Berre until it reaches the town of Martigues. Beyond this point it merges in the already existing canals from Martigues to Bouc and from Bouc to Arles where it joins with the Rhone.

Lock Built Because of Difference in Levels.

A lift lock has been built at Arles on account of the difference between the Rhone and sea levels, a difference of 45.76 inches at high tide and 23.62 inches at low tide. The useful length of this lock is 160 meters (525 feet), and its width 16 meters (52.49 feet). The Arles-Bouc canal has to be deepened by 11.48 feet in order to be brought to the level of the Marseille-Bouc branch. Its present width on the surface is only 47.24 feet and requires widening to 75.45 feet. The normal width of the canal is to be 25 meters (82.02 feet), measured at 2 meters (6.56 feet) above the water surface. In the narrow sections the width will be reduced to 18 meters (59.05 feet).

The characteristics of the Rove Tunnel are as follows: Length, 7,200 meters (4.47 miles); total width, 22 meters (72.17 feet); height, 14 meters (45.93 feet). The work on the tunnel was begun in 1910.

Some American machinery was used in the digging of the canal and piercing of the tunnel, and it is stated to have given entire satisfaction.

Detailed technical and other valuable information concerning the canal and tunnel will be found in the pamphlet entitled "Le Canal de Marseille au Rhône," by Mr. Bourgougnon, ingénieur en chef of the department of roads and bridges, who was for some years in charge of this construction work.

[A copy of the publication mentioned, together with an album of technical interest containing drawings and half tones of the canal and tunnel and eight photographs of various points along the route, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80506.]

TECHNICAL SCHOOL OF COMMERCE IN PERU.

An example of the growing interest in practical commercial education is seen in a Peruvian law promulgated in El Peruano of August 24 governing the technical school of commerce in Lima. This law provides for an annual subsidy to the school of \$3,900 for five years, payable half-yearly in advance. Scholarships are provided for 26 students from the various provinces of Peru, and the President will appoint these students for the three-year course. The Chamber of Commerce of Lima will have direct supervision of the commercial school and will issue certificates or diplomas to the students on completion of their course. The Ministry of Commerce and Finance will keep a special registry of these certificates, where the record of graduates may be ascertained when desired.

The quantity of raw gasoline extracted from natural gas and sold in this country in 1915 amounted to 65,364,665 gallons, a gain of 22,712,033 gallons, or 53 per cent, over the quantity marketed in 1914, according to statistics compiled by the United States Geological Survey.

LUMBER SITUATION IN CHILE.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago.]

Previous to May, 1916, the Chilean import duty on rough "pino," that is Oregon pine, or Douglas fir, was 15 centavos Chilean gold (\$55 United States currency) per square meter (10.764 square feet), but to this there had been added a surtax of 5 per cent of its legal value, amounting to 3 centavos Chilean gold. That is, the total import duty was 18 centavos per square meter, or \$6.10 per thousand feet.

Under the new tariff which governs to-day there is a specific import duty on "pino" of 30 centavos per square meter, or \$10.17 United States gold per thousand feet. A short time previous to the addition of the new duty the market value of rough "pino" was from \$50 to \$55 United States gold per thousand feet, so the increase in price due to the higher duties would hardly be more than 8 per cent. As a matter of fact, the present local price is from \$65 to \$70 per thousand feet, due to the condition of stock, increasing freight rates, import duties, and exchange fluctuations. This last item alone often amounts to 5 per cent, and sometimes even 10 per cent, one way or another, within a month, and it may be assumed that \$4.07 increase due to altered import duties would not be a factor of great importance to the consumer.

It happened that this increase of price went into effect about the time there was a sudden improvement in exchange, and there was really a decrease in the price of lumber in Chilean currency almost simultaneous with the increase in the gold value.

Slight Variations in Prices of Native Woods.

The quotations on native woods have not varied greatly, as this material is being used chiefly in cheap construction, and the small demand has continued. American lumber is used principally in first-class construction of which there is very little at the present time, and the demand is poor. American lumber has no serious competitor, and the Chilean consumers do not buy it because it is cheap but rather because of its quality.

A notable decrease in imports of Northwest American lumber is shown in the following approximate figures: 1913, \$1,160,000; 1914, \$958,000; 1915, \$500,000.

It is obvious that construction was falling off rapidly even previous to the adoption of the new tariff. It is doubtful if general construction will begin in Chile until the effect of the European war on the nitrate industry is known. If this effect is highly detrimental, construction will probably be postponed for some time, while if it is not in any way adverse, there should be a boom period when the slight difference in price would have little effect. The comparatively small stocks carried here would undoubtedly rise rapidly in price, in pure sympathy with the demand.

River Improvements in Peru.

A recent Peruvian law provides for deepening the river Ica, giving current and direction to the stream. The cost of this work is to be limited to \$58,000, which is to be provided by a loan of local funds, secured by special taxes.

COMMERCE OF THE PORT OF SANTOS.

[Consul Carl F. Delchman, Santos, Brazil, Aug. 1.]

The imports of practically all classes of merchandise into Santos for the first six months of 1916 show good increases compared with the corresponding period the previous year, the most notable being in the importation of raw cotton and yarn for the cotton mills of São Paulo, iron and steel and manufactures thereof, machinery, chemicals, fine leather, raw jute and hemp for the manufacture of bagging for coffee and sugar sacks, and coal.

In the imports by countries the United States heads the list and shows an increase of almost 85 per cent over the first half of the year 1915. Great Britain comes next with an increase of almost 30 per cent. France and Portugal both show substantial increases in imports for 1916, while Argentina, which ranks third in the value of imports into Santos, shows a large decrease from the total of last year.

Principal Imports Into the Port.

The imports into the port were valued at \$23,303,627, compared with \$18,100,046 for the first six months of 1915. The following table shows the principal articles and their value imported during the two periods:

Articles.	January-June, 1915.	January-June, 1916.	Articles.	January-June, 1915.	January-June, 1916.
Cotton in bales and in manufactured articles...	\$800,706	\$1,953,148	Jute and hemp for sacking	\$111,426	\$67,152
Steel and iron in bars and in manufactured articles...	1,051,206	1,568,014	Jute and hemp raw	871,800	1,064,593
Industrial machinery	162,161	192,098	Coal	811,936	1,138,380
Agricultural machinery	14,421	53,799	Kerosene	410,758	366,577
Various machinery and machinery parts	666,230	759,080	Dried codfish	426,454	303,253
Chemical products and pharmaceutical specialties	632,569	626,623	Corn flour	300,955	401,003
Skin and leather prepared for the manufacture	744,631	915,291	Corn	4,011,803	3,524,601
			Wine, fire and common	1,248,523	1,668,750
			Various foodstuffs	1,627,525	1,468,778
			Metallic coin	15,702	
			Other articles	4,494,991	6,320,668
			Total	18,100,046	23,303,627

The share of each country in the import trade was as follows:

Countries.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Countries.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Germany	\$647,973	\$7,299	Great Britain	\$3,203,143	\$4,172,905
Argentina	4,567,623	3,840,192	Italy	2,030,231	2,328,743
Austria-Hungary	45,335	112	Portugal	688,542	1,137,105
Belgium	36,420	46,522	Other countries	7,342,911	8,635,518
United States	2,774,712	6,971,238	Total	18,100,046	23,303,627
France	698,071	1,144,000			

The Export Trade.

The exports from the port decreased in value from \$51,395,768 for the first six months of 1915 to \$46,271,174 for the first half of 1916. Coffee is the principal article of shipment, and until the war began was the only one of commercial importance. The exports of this article, however, show a decrease in both quantity and value, principally due to the restrictions placed upon its shipment to European countries by the entente powers. The decrease, however, is not sufficient to seriously affect the industry nor the local market.

Since the war large quantities of chilled or frozen meat have been exported to Great Britain and some to France. The amount exported during the first six months of 1915 was valued at \$167,070 and for the first six months of 1916 amounted to \$1,545,762, and the exports are steadily growing.

Of the other products exported, bananas are the principal ones of value, large quantities being shipped by each mail steamer to Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

The following table gives the principal articles exported and their value:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Coffee.....	\$50,620,988	\$42,841,599	Bananas.....	\$251,858	\$253,981
Chilled meat.....	167,070	1,545,762	Other products.....	335,358	572,530
Rubber.....	1,900	47,974			
Erano.....	15,295	9,203	Total.....	51,395,768	46,271,174

Export Trade by Countries—Shipping.

The total value of goods shipped to each country for the six months was as follows:

Countries.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Countries.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Argentina.....	\$590,358	\$1,112,960	Italy.....	\$1,618,067	\$6,294,813
Denmark.....	917,268	744,005	Norway.....	738,853	637,677
United States.....	20,491,919	18,053,391	Sweden.....	5,237,258	3,634,315
France.....	7,790,429	9,281,462	Other countries.....	630,411	355,547
Great Britain.....	2,417,843	3,022,326			
Spain.....	139,558	704,057	Total.....	51,395,768	46,271,171
Netherlands.....	10,132,203	2,395,030			

The number of vessels entering the port during the first six months of 1916 was 607, of 1,297,578 tons, compared with 670 vessels, of 1,461,839 tons, in 1915. Their nationality was as follows:

Nationality.	Jan.-June, 1915		Jan.-June, 1916	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Brazilian.....	504	263,155	275	148,411
French.....	51	167,211	40	144,300
Spanish.....	27	99,327	25	80,019
Dutch.....	44	205,631	25	111,713
English.....	91	327,459	88	373,757
Italian.....	73	261,467	50	160,958
Others.....	80	137,581	104	178,385
Total.....	670	1,461,839	607	1,297,578

Growth of New Brunswick Fire Insurance Business.

Consul Edward A. Dow, of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, reports that the fire insurance written in that Canadian Province by the companies belonging to the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters has yielded the following amounts in premiums during the last six years: In 1910, \$666,262; in 1911, \$685,113; in 1912, \$768,716; in 1913, \$863,315; in 1914, \$1,031,360; in 1915, \$1,121,211. In addition, there was considerable insurance written by mutual associations and by a few so-called nontariff stock companies.

SASKATCHEWAN AS A MARKET FOR AMERICAN GOODS.

[Consul John A. Gore, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, Sept. 5.]

Present conditions in Saskatchewan are of interest to exporters in the United States. The Province was established by act of the Dominion Parliament on September 1, 1905, with its capital at Regina. It is the eastern portion of the former Territories of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan and occupies a part of the great alluvial plain of the Canadian Northwest, one of the most fertile wheat fields in the world. It lies immediately west of Manitoba and extends north from the United States boundary line. Its length from north to south is 740 miles and its breadth 375 miles. Its land area is 250,650 square miles and its water area 27,000 square miles. The Province is larger than France, twice the size of the British Isles, and larger than Ontario and New Brunswick.

Growing Purchaser of Manufactured Goods.

While large quantities of mill products and lumber are exported from this Province to the United States and other countries, Saskatchewan will be a growing purchaser of manufactured goods for many years to come. There are nine cities and towns in the Province having an estimated population of over 4,000. These are: Regina, population 45,000; Moose Jaw, 25,000; Saskatoon, 25,000; Prince Albert, 12,000; North Battleford, 5,000; Swift Current, 5,500; Weyburn, 5,500; Yorkton, 5,000; and Estéban, 4,200. Many smaller towns are scattered throughout the Province.

Although high import duties are charged on many articles produced in the United States, large quantities of American manufactured goods, such as textiles, clothing, hats, boots and shoes, groceries, machinery, hardware, musical instruments, books, sporting goods, coal, building material, etc., are sold in this country, and several American implement and thrashing-machine concerns have branch houses in practically every important business center in the Province.

Wheat Growing Chief Business of Province.

Saskatchewan has the largest acreage suitable for growing hard spring wheat that any Canadian Province contains. At least 50,000,000 acres of its land are capable of producing an average of 20 bushels of wheat to the acre, a large portion of which will grade No. 1 northern. There are 86,000 square miles of land suitable for grain growing, 32,000 square miles more that need only irrigation to fit them for raising wheat, and 100,000 square miles suited for ranching and mixed farming. Wheat growing is the chief business of the Province. Next in order are oats, barley, flax, and cattle raising. Potatoes do well here, but, unfortunately, there are no near-by markets for the product, and freight rates are too high on a long haul for potato raising to be a profitable business. Saskatchewan also yields annually about \$250,000 worth of furs.

There are valuable deposits of coal in the southern part, underlain with clay suitable for the manufacture of high-class bricks and pipes. There are also many minor opportunities for industries.

General Conditions.—Government Enterprises.

The Province is principally prairie, although timber is found in some sections, generally along the banks of streams, lakes, and rivers.

It has about 4,700 miles of railroad and a Government telephone system with about 2,000 miles of long-distance lines, 42 exchanges, and more than 5,000 subscribers, besides 213 rural lines, representing 4,800 miles and serving more than 2,000 farmers. The estimated population is about 650,000.

Saskatchewan is being rapidly settled by emigrants from eastern Canada, Great Britain, the United States, and Europe. A scheme is on foot to settle British soldiers in western Canada after the close of the present war.

The most effective way for Americans to procure orders from this section of the country is to send traveling salesmen with samples of goods, but sales may also be effected by other means. Conditions and business methods here are similar to those in the border States along the western frontier. The daily papers are used, while for a special line of articles, when appropriate, large posters are also utilized.

The American consulate could possibly use to some advantage catalogues with price lists of goods usually required by farming communities and their dependent cities and towns.

[A list of names of importers in various lines located in the most important business centers of Saskatchewan may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80258.]

CHILE SEEKS TO ESTABLISH NEW INDUSTRIES.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Aug. 22.]

The Ultimas Noticias of August 21, 1916, states that a message has been presented to Congress urging the appropriation of 200,000 pesos (about \$40,000), for the salaries and expenses of two specialists who shall study the possibilities of iron and porcelain and enamelware industries for Chile. In urging this appropriation it is stated that Chile annually imports a great amount of iron in spite of the fact that the country possesses rich deposits, and further that there is an ample supply of wood fuel. The country is also rich in refractory clays and should be able to produce good enamelware and porcelain.

EFFECT OF DRY HEAT ON RUBBER INSULATION OF WIRE.

Numerous tests have been made by the United States Bureau of Standards in connection with an investigation to determine the effect of dry heat on the physical properties of the rubber insulation of wire. This work is being carried out in collaboration with the testing department of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. and other laboratories identified with the American Society for Testing Materials, the object being to develop an accelerated test for insulated wire that will indicate the probable life of the wire insulation under normal service conditions.

The United States Geological Survey reports that the value of the total mineral production of the Prince William Sound (Alaska) region in 1915 was \$1,340,000, as compared with \$1,200,000 in 1914. The known productive mines on Prince William Sound in 1915 include four copper mines and five gold mines.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3634.—Sealed proposals will be received by the general purchasing officer, the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 14, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel channels, pig iron, phosphor tin, locomotive tires, cast-iron pipe, lead pipe, sheet brass, bar copper, copper wire, nails, screws, cable thimbles, turnbuckles, plate planer, plate-bending rolls, electric motors, metallographic outfit, grinding machine, shovels, wrenches, saws, tongs, tinners' shears, taps, vises, steam whistles, galvanized rings, air-brake hose, inner tubes, chairs, rubber bands, blank books, stamp pads, paper, fire brick, foundry clay, silica grit, silica sand, silica wash, coke, lime, pitch, soda ash, calcium chloride, graphite, acetone, alcohol, bicarbonate of soda, petroleum jelly, turpentine substitute, linseed oil, litharge, putty, varnish, white zinc, paints, lampblack, enamel, and lumber. (Circular No. 1083.)

Basin for fish, No. 3635.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Commissioner of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until October 6, 1916, for the construction of a retaining basin for fish at the fisheries station, Gloucester, Mass. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

Impression paper, No. 3636.—Sealed proposals will be received by the General Supply Committee, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until October 5, 1916, for furnishing stipulated quantities of impression paper, approximating 50,000 pounds, for use in Washington. Further information may be had on application to the above-named committee.

Lock gates, No. 3637.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wheeling, W. Va., until October 21, 1916, for furnishing and erecting steel lock gates for Dam No. 24, Ohio River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Steel towers, No. 3638.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 23, 1916, for constructing two 300-foot steel towers at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the Commandant, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.

Linen, No. 3639.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 7, 1916, for furnishing 800 yards of 36-inch wide Irish linen, 2,000 yards 4-inch linen tape, and 60 gallons dope for Martin hydroaeroplanes. (Proposal No. 361.)

Repair of light vessel, No. 3640.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., for repairs to light vessel No. 66. Further information will be furnished on application to the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass.

Construction work, No. 3641.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 23, 1916, for radiostation, consisting of two wood-frame buildings, three guyed pipe masts, sewer, water, and lighting systems, at the distant control naval radiostation, Key West, Fla. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the Commandant at the naval station named.

Dredging, No. 3642.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, New London, Conn., until October 13, 1916, for maintenance dredging in harbors at New Haven, Norwalk, and Stamford, Conn. Further information can be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Lighthouse service supplies, No. 3643.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., for the purchase from the

Lighthouse Service of the following unserviceable public property: Cables, clocks, time markers, flags, oars, rope junk, fire engine, dynamo engine, composition junk, rubber junk, dry batteries, tackle blocks, electric wire, carboys, zinc blocks, iron tanks, incubator, iron junk, anchors, oil engines and compressors, and miscellaneous machinery. Also, on the same day will be sold at public auction, 11 row and sail boats.

COST OF LIVING IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Paul L. Edwards, secretary to commercial attaché, The Hague, Sept. 9.]

During the past year the cost of food in the Netherlands has increased considerably, but not at such a rapid rate as during the first year of the present war. The following figures represent the mean of the highest and lowest market price of the stated commodities, during the week and at the place indicated:

Commodity.	Market.	Unit.	Week ending Sept. 7—		
			1914	1915	1916
Cheese, fresh	Rotterdam	Pound	\$0.10	\$0.21	\$0.23
Eggs	Rotterdam	A piece	.024	.035	.033
Beef, first quality	Amsterdam	Pound	.14	.20	.22
Veal	Rotterdam	do	.14	.18	.22
Pork	do	do	.08	.17	.16
Coarse rice	Amsterdam	do	.35	.40	.53
Red cabbage	Amsterdam	do	.35	4.08	2.10
(sulflower)	Loosduin	A piece	.016	.032	.029
Lettuce	do	100	.32	.39	.55
Spinach	do	Basket	.096	.101	.132
Butter	Leeuwarden	Pound	.21	.35	.43
Coffee (Santos)	Amsterdam	do	.13	.17	.22

These figures refer only to the market place indicated—slightly different prices ruled in different markets in the Netherlands—and as they represent only the mean between the highest and lowest prices, without proper weighting according to the quantities sold at different prices, they are only approximate.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 5.]

New Schedule of Maximum Food Prices.

The Minister of Agriculture has issued a new list of maximum prices that may be charged for food articles until further directions are given. The retail prices, expressed in American cents per avoirdupois pound, are: Black bread, 2; white bread, 4; wheat flour, 4; butter, 32; cheese, 12 to 25; rice, 7; sugar, 10; fish, 4 to 6 cents.

Maximum prices of meat do not appear in this regulation, but local retail prices are 30 to 40 cents a pound for beef, 24 to 30 for mutton, and 30 to 34 for pork, according to cut.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 287 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Incubators, etc., No. 22571.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that a man in his district desires to receive catalogues, in Spanish, of incubators and stoves or machines suitable for drying figs.

Pop corn, No. 22572.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a manufacturing confectioner in his district desires to communicate with firms in the United States who are in a position to supply corn for the manufacture of pop corn.

Chrome-alum, No. 22573.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a tannery in his district desires quotations on chrome-alum in crystal for tanning purposes (Cr_2SO_4 , $\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4 + 24 \text{H}_2\text{O}$). The annual requirements are from 80,000 to 35,000 pounds. Correspondence in French or German.

Machinery, No. 22574.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in India desires to receive catalogues and price lists of agricultural tractors and other agricultural machinery and implements and coil-yarn machinery.

Typewriters and supplies, No. 22575.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a business man in his district is desirous of importing from the United States rebuilt typewriters, typewriter ribbons, carbon paper, and ink pads, etc. Cash will be paid with orders. Correspondence in Spanish.

Copper, No. 22576.—A business man in Switzerland requests the Bureau to place him in touch with American copper foundries and refiners in a position to export copper. Exclusive agencies are desired. References.

General representation, No. 22577.—A young man with five years' residence and commercial experience in China desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters in that country. Previous experience with tobacco company. References.

Paper and printer's ink, No. 22578.—A typographical establishment in Brazil informs an American consular officer that it is in the market for white paper, satin finished, and printer's black ink. Quotations and samples desired immediately. Correspondence in English. References will be furnished upon request.

Agricultural implements, etc., No. 22579.—An American consular officer in China transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to represent American manufacturers of agricultural implements of all kinds, household supplies, and small hardware in Siberia. References.

Paints and acids, No. 22580.—An American consular officer in the West Indies reports that a manufacturer's agent in his district is desirous of representing American manufacturers and exporters of paints and acids.

Hosiery, No. 22581.—A commission merchant in France informs an American consular officer that he desires to purchase hosiery similar to samples which may be inspected at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer. to file No. 80189). Reinforced toes and heels required. Correspondence in English.

General merchandise, etc., No. 22582.—An American consular officer in South Africa transmits the name of a newly formed firm in his district which desires to act as sole distributing agent in that territory for merchandise, electrical fixtures, novelties, and goods for general domestic use, etc. One-half cash with order, balance on receipt of documents at destination. Reference.

Cattle, No. 22583.—A ranch owner in Uruguay has informed an American consular officer that he desires to buy 15 Durham short horn cows about 2 years old. Photographs, pedigrees, and other details desired. Correspondence in Spanish preferred.

Proprietary medicines, etc., No. 22584.—An American consular officer in Australia transmits the name of a firm in his district which desire to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of proprietary patent medicines and drugs and medicines of all kinds. Reference.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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No. 232

Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 3

1916

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FRENCH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

[Cablegram from American Consulate General, Paris, Sept. 29.]

A decree of September 28, published to-day, prohibits importation into France and Algeria of parchment and similar papers (ex 46); cardboard, rough, in sheets or plates of certain weight (ex 462); cut, grooved, or shaped cardboard, rough (ex 463); moldings of wood and wooden frames (594 and 594 bis); graduated or gauged glasses, and articles of blown glass for scientific and laboratory use (ex 635 quat). The prohibition is not applicable to goods for account of the State or to direct shipments made before publication. The provisions of the decree of May 11 relative to goods contracted for before April 6 are revoked. A decree of September 26, published to-day, prohibits importation into France and Algeria of bromides and all bromium compositions of foreign origin or shipment. The prohibition is not applicable to goods for account of the State or to goods shipped before the date of this decree. Both decrees are subject to the usual exceptions.

[NOTE.—The tariff numbers referred to above are given in full in Tariff Series No. 25 (Customs Tariff of France), published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. For decree of May 11, see COMMERCE REPORTS for May 23.]

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIPS RUNNING TO CRISTOBAL.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Sept. 16.]

It is announced that when the *San José* of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. sailed from Balboa on September 12 for Guayaquil via Buenaventura and Tumaco it was the first vessel of that company to sail for a port south of Balboa in 40 years. On the return trip from Guayaquil by way of intermediate ports to Balboa the *San José* will come through the Panama Canal to Cristobal on the Atlantic side, which will be the terminus of this line in future. The principal office of the company on the Isthmus has been moved from Balboa to Cristobal-Colon.

INVESTING WAR SAVINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

[Commercial Attaché Pierce C. Williams, London, Sept. 8.]

To encourage the investing of savings and other small sums in war securities the British Government has issued war savings certificates. They are issued in denominations of 15s. 6d., or approximately \$3.75 and the sum return in five years is £1, or \$4.85. The rate of interest is thus equal to about 5½ per cent per annum, compounded. The investment is attractive because the certificates are free of income tax and the interest itself need not be added to income tax returns. The certificates can be cashed at any time on three days' notice.

The distribution of the war savings certificates through war savings associations is in the hands of the National War Savings Committee, which reports that up to August 12, 1916, 24,441,306 certificates had been issued. Any number of persons may form a war savings association. In many cases the associations consist of individuals already cooperating in some way, as a trade-union, a friendly society, or a building society, but any group meeting regularly in a church, a schoolhouse, a club, or a workshop may form an association. Three thousand war savings associations are now in existence.

EXPORTS OF CRUDE RUBBER FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para, Sept. 5.]

The total exports of crude rubber from Para, Manaos, and Itacoatiara, Brazil, for the month of August, 1916, amounted to 4,214,490 pounds, compared with 4,656,897 pounds for the same month last year. The exports to the United States aggregated 2,730,165 pounds and to Europe 1,484,325 pounds, compared with 2,760,971 and 1,895,926 pounds, respectively, in 1915.

The following table shows the several grades of rubber exported:

Grade.	From Para.		From Manaos.		From Itacoatiara.	
	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Fine.....	1,032,770	124,674	586,263	600,276	25,462	
Medium.....	15,095	16,369	82,683	45,423		1,565
Coarse.....	449,577	2,171	142,056	22,325	12,610	308
Cauchó.....	267,025	100,325	74,504	569,437		1,456
Total.....	1,804,577	243,536	885,516	1,237,461	38,072	3,328

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE IN URUGUAY.

The President of Uruguay has asked Congress to authorize an issue of bonds to the amount of 13,500,000 pesos (peso=\$1.034), to be known as the "1916 internal conversion loan." This loan would draw 6½ per cent annual interest, payable quarterly, with 1 per cent cumulative amortization, payable annually from 1917. The proceeds from these bonds would be used to cover the 1915-16 deficit of 3,152,576 pesos, to convert at par the 8 per cent treasury warrants of 1915, amounting to 9,520,000 pesos, and to cancel other indebtedness, consolidating in one large loan these various accounts and reducing the interest on them.

CHANGES IN BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Sept. 30.]

The proclamation of May 10 giving list of prohibited exports has been further amended. The following headings are deleted from prohibitions to all destinations: Flax fabric suitable for aircraft; iron and steel plates and sheets; steel flats, rounds, and squares, except carbon steel for tools and steel for mining purposes. From prohibitions to all non-British destinations, delete the following: Linen ducks, woven; steel and steel articles containing chrome, cobalt, nickel, or vanadium; goods wholly or partly of rubber, gutta-percha, or balata. The following items are deleted from the list of prohibitions to nonallied European countries: Feathers and down, except wing and tail feathers of the ostrich; linen canvas; linen drills, woven; linen piece goods woven from bleached yarns not bleached in the piece; union cloths containing cotton in the proportion of 25 per cent or upward; fruit, fruit preserves, and nuts used as fruit; poultry and game. The following headings are added to prohibitions to all destinations: Steel flats, rounds, and other sections, except when made from crucible case steel or carbon steel for tools not manufactured in United Kingdom by Siemens or Bessemer processes, provided such crucible or carbon steel contains not more than 5 per cent of chrome, cobalt, nickel, or vanadium; iron and steel plates and sheets except when made from crucible cast steel or from carbon steel not manufactured in the United Kingdom by Siemens or Bessemer processes, provided such crucible or carbon steel contains not more than 5 per cent of chrome, cobalt, nickel, or vanadium; rubber hose covered with steel wire; rock elm wood; valves, gas, steam, and water; wood screws of brass, iron, or steel. The following items are added to prohibitions to all non-British destinations: Molybdc acid and its salts; ~~ganze~~ of copper or its alloys; cloth, unbleached, woven from bleached or unbleached flax yarns, whether the cloth or yarn is pure or mixed with other material, of a weight per square yard exceeding 8 ounces, or if of 8 ounces or less per square yard, aggregating 96 threads or more per inch warp and weft combined; steel articles containing chrome, cobalt, nickel, or vanadium; jam; venison; goods wholly or partly of rubber, gutta-percha, or balata, except rubber hose covered with steel wire. Add to prohibitions to all nonallied European countries the following headings: Feathers and down, except ornamental feathers; hemp braid; cloth woven from bleached or unbleached flax yarns not otherwise specifically prohibited whether the cloth or yarn is pure or mixed with other material; matches; fruit, fruit preserves other than jam, and nuts used as fruit; poultry and game except venison; sauces and condiments, except table salt, not otherwise prohibited; vegetables, canned.

American Cotton Ginned.

According to a preliminary report prepared by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, there were 4,062,991 bales, counting round as half bales, of cotton ginned from the growth of 1916 to September 25, compared with 2,903,829 bales for 1915 and 3,393,752 bales for 1914. Round bales included this year are 83,527, compared with 32,412 for 1915 and 3,394 for 1914. Sea island included 31,260 bales for 1916, 19,091 for 1915, and 13,927 for 1914.

BRITISH INVESTMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, London, Aug. 31.]

The extent to which Great Britain's investors and bankers have placed funds in Latin American securities is evidenced by the figures tabulated below. These statistics were compiled principally from the official list of securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange, to which have been added the estimated total British holdings of unquoted securities of Latin American and West Indian companies, including oil and mining enterprises. The figures as submitted are conservative.

Class and nationality of securities.	Amount ^a
CLASS OF SECURITIES.	
Governmental, State, and municipal loans.....	\$1,571,879,500
Railway securities, stocks, debentures, etc.....	2,350,519,500
Industrial, land, timber, oil, lighting, etc.....	1,265,290,000
Total	5,187,689,000
DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENTS.	
Argentina.....	1,897,935,000
Brazil.....	1,119,295,000
Chile.....	340,665,000
Uruguay.....	243,325,000
Peru.....	121,662,500
Venezuela.....	39,405,300
Colombia.....	33,578,900
Bolivia.....	17,519,400
Paraguay.....	14,539,500
Ecuador.....	13,626,200
Guianas (the).....	8,759,700
Total, South America.....	3,850,981,500
Mexico.....	798,106,000
Cuba.....	229,608,800
Guatemala.....	51,068,700
Costa Rica.....	32,118,000
Honduras.....	15,086,200
Nicaragua.....	5,839,800
San o Domingo and Haiti.....	3,465,500
British Honduras.....	1,460,000
Porto Rico.....	2,919,900
Total, Mexico Central America, and Latin West Indies.....	1,139,734,370
Shipping.....	97,330,000
Banks and trust companies.....	99,763,200
Grand total.....	5,187,689,000

^a Converted at the normal rate of \$4.8635 from round-sum estimate, expressed in pounds sterling.

In addition to the above total, Great Britain has invested fairly large amounts in British West Indian, colonial, and other securities. The total British West Indian investments would likely approximate \$60,000,000, including some \$30,000,000 in colonial loans and upward of \$20,000,000 in Trinidad oil securities. Thus the approximate total invested in governmental and municipal securities and in stock enterprises throughout South and Central America, Mexico, and the West Indies may conservatively be said to approach \$5,250,000,000.

Canada's production of wire nails in 1915 is estimated at 1,636,000 kegs of 100 pounds, as compared with 1,144,000 kegs in 1914. The output of cast-iron pipe amounted to 53,700 net tons, as compared with 93,200 tons in 1914.

PERUVIAN COMMERCE AND FINANCE.

[Consul General Wm. W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Aug. 22.]

The Peruvian Minister of Commerce and Finance laid before Congress at the opening of the ordinary session on July 28, 1916, a comprehensive and interesting report, not only thoroughly covering the financial situation of Peru during the year 1915, and in some respects the first six months of 1916, but containing also data on the following subjects: General financial situation of the Government, national debt, customs revenues, national budget, Government monopolies, municipal affairs, consular revenues, relations with the Peruvian Corporation issue of circular checks, and the proposed loan of \$15,000,000. The report also embodies a number of explanatory tables and contains all the decrees issued during 1915 by the Ministry of Finance.

Foreign Trade Statistics.

The minister submitted in this document, for the first time, a table showing the foreign commerce of Peru for the year 1915 and the first six months of 1916. This table, converted into American currency, is as follows:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1910.....	\$24,238,561	\$34,425,991	\$58,864,552
1911.....	26,464,219	36,119,294	62,583,513
1912.....	25,015,460	45,932,854	70,948,314
1913.....	29,631,033	44,469,049	74,100,082
1914.....	23,495,122	42,668,450	66,163,572
1915.....	15,034,465	68,729,925	83,794,390
1916 (first 6 months).....	8,701,420	31,510,388	40,211,808

The minister, in explaining the marked difference in the imports for 1915 in comparison with those for the preceding year, gives the following reasons for the decrease:

The table of imports and exports clearly shows the development of our industries as well as the notable falling off in imports during the years 1914 and 1915 as a consequence of the European war, and is due (1) to the cessation of all commerce with certain countries from which we were accustomed to receive an appreciable amount of merchandise, (2) to the curtailed production in the exporting countries, for in those countries engaged in the war the factories have devoted their energies to supplying the needs of their armies, while the neutral countries have given first attention to filling the orders of the belligerent countries; and (3) to the almost complete suspension of credit to our importers, who formerly obtained their merchandise on long terms and now have to pay cash, or in some cases in advance. All of these factors caused a necessary limitation of imports and consequently of consumption. That part of the decrease in imports is due to unusual circumstances and not to lack of capital on the part of the would-be consumers is shown by the well-known fact that our merchants lack many articles that are easily and quickly sold.

The imports during the first six months of 1916 represent a value of \$8,701,420, which compared with the same period of 1915 shows an increase of \$1,169,187, or 15½ per cent.

New Sugar Company in Haiti.

The President of Haiti in a decree in *Le Moniteur* of September 13 has authorized an American stock company of Wilmington, Del., to do business in Haiti under the name of the Haitian American Sugar Co.

PAPER-PULP POSSIBILITIES IN PHILIPPINES.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Aug. 30.]

The growing scarcity of materials for the manufacture of paper has led the Bureau of Science of the Philippine Islands to make public some important data concerning the supply of such materials in the islands. For several years the bureau has been investigating the suitability of bamboo, cogon grass, abaca, and various palm fibers for paper pulp. The facts collected are regarded as evidence that an industry of great economic value could be developed.

Careful surveys of some of the bamboo fields have been made. Data regarding the cost of the raw material, the quantity of bamboo available, and the cost of manufacture of the pulp show that the bamboo soda-pulp industry can be developed for a possible export trade in direct competition with chemical wood pulp at present quotations.

Other countries already have utilized the information obtained from this work, which ultimately may be the means of starting the paper industry in the Philippines. Samples of pulp manufactured from different Philippine materials may be obtained from the Bureau of Science.

Caña bojo is a bamboo of the genus *Schizostachyum*. In Bataan Province there are two contiguous areas of caña bojo—one (block A) containing 1,200 hectares, of which it can be said with certainty that 800 hectares contain dense bojo; the other (block B) taking in approximately 650 hectares, of which more than 40 per cent is covered with bojo.

Bamboo Plant Easily Propagated.

In addition, smaller areas of caña bojo are found along Bamban, Buasao, Pinulot, and Bacon Rivers which form the basin of Colo River, and also in the basin of Mababo or Balsic River. This area contains a greater portion of timber trees and is less heavily covered with bojo. Caña bojo is easily propagated. One person can plant daily about 400 prepared tubes, or he can prepare from 1,000 to 1,200, if the growing areas are not very far apart.

The work at the Bureau of Science on the making of paper pulp from caña bojo shows that both the sulphite and soda processes are applicable in its manufacture. The sulphite process yields fully 50 per cent of unbleached pulp and with a much lower sulphur consumption than is required in commercial practice for wood. It is shown that if bamboo pulp is most suited for use in an unbleached state then the sulphite process should be adopted by all means, but that the material is not sufficiently light in color to be mixed with mechanical wood pulp in preparing news-print paper. It is entirely suited, so far as color is concerned, for use as wrapping paper, but is too good a fiber to be used for this purpose or for newspaper work. Bamboo fiber is eminently fitted for book paper and for certain grades of writing and lithographic papers, either alone or when blended with rag or sulphite wood pulp. If bamboo fiber appears better suited for book-printing and lithographic papers than for wrapping or news-print papers, the soda process is more fitted for the treatment, since bulk, softness, and opacity are the chief features of soda pulp.

Meets Requirements of Paper Makers.

With caña bojo the soda process invariably yields from 43 to 45 per cent of air-dry, unbleached soda pulp. Such pulp bleaches to a splendid white with from 12 to 15 per cent of bleaching powder. The fiber is strong, of good felting capacity, and makes a more bulky sheet than wood pulp. The fiber possesses the requisite length, strength, and felting capacity to meet the paper makers' demands, and the quantity of resistant cellulose per unit weight of raw material is sufficient to warrant its extraction.

An area of 1,000 hectares of bamboo would supply a pulp mill of 20 tons daily capacity for 3 years of 300 working days each, without taking into account the growth of the bamboo during this period. Working on a 3-year rotation basis, which is entirely feasible, such an area would supply a mill of this capacity indefinitely. Since an area of 2 kilometers' radius contains more than 1,200 hectares, the question of transportation of the material to a given point, so far as the distance for hauling is concerned, is not a serious one.

Manufacture at a Profit to be Expected.

The Bureau of Science has estimated the cost of manufacture of pulp from caña bojo, dividing such cost into the items of (1) labor, (2) fuel, power, etc., (3) chemicals and supplies, (4) repairs, renewals, and depreciation, (5) taxes, insurance, and interest. All of these items have been discussed in detail in the Philippine Journal of Science. The article quoted shows that \$200,000, United States currency, should be sufficient to build, equip, and operate a soda-pulp mill of 20-tons daily capacity. Such a plant, built in a modern manner and efficiently operated, will produce unbleached, air-dried bamboo fiber at a maximum cost of \$21 per short ton f. o. b. Manila. If the excellent quality of caña bojo soda pulp prepared under favorable conditions is considered, a profitable trade with Japan, Australia, and the Pacific coast of North America in direct competition with chemical wood pulp at ordinary quotations appears a reasonable expectation. One consideration of special importance is the possibility of obtaining the raw material in such quantity and at such a figure as to allow manufacture at a profit even under conditions of maximum cost.

Best Source of Abaca for Paper Stock.

The Philippine Islands offer the best source of abaca for paper stock. Here is the home of real Manila paper. An average yield of approximately 50 per cent of strong-fibered stock can be obtained in sulphite digestions of abaca waste. This is about what may be expected from the best grades of waste it is possible to obtain, if the baled material is thoroughly deviled before it is subjected to any kind of chemical treatment. The soda process yields about 41 per cent dry pulp. Maguey waste gives results comparable with those of abaca. In the opinion of the Director of the Bureau of Science the reduction in cost of freight and handling incident to placing abaca waste half-stuff on a foreign market, thus allowing a greater outlay in properly preparing the waste for the digestion process, is certain to bring better results if the quality of the resulting product alone is considered than would the exportation of the raw product. To pulp the waste here for subsequent exportation would effect a

reduction of 50 per cent in freights alone. The initial cost and daily running expenses of a hydraulic baling press would nearly offset the cost of equipment for a pulp mill of 10-tons daily capacity.

Other Sources of Fiber Abundant.

Other sources of paper fiber are abundant in the Philippines. The Bureau of Science has investigated the value of many classes of palms and grasses relative to their pulp-producing qualities. It has been found that such grasses as cogon and talahib produce a soda pulp of excellent fiber. These grasses are abundant and of good quality in the Visayan Islands. Thousands of acres of rolling lands in Masbate and Burias Islands are covered with even stands of tall, thrifty cogon grass. Here the lay of the land is such that heavy-draft mowing machinery could be used to advantage.

A practical phase of the utilization of Philippine perennial grasses would be the material benefit to the forests, as the protection and cutting of the grass areas would greatly decrease the annual loss by forest fires, and any decrease in the cogon area is of great assistance in eliminating the locust pest.

Under factory conditions cogon and talahib give an approximate yield of 45 per cent dry, unbleached soda pulp. The loss in bleaching is approximately 3.2 per cent. The pulps made from cogon and talahib are comparable in their use to that of esparto.

Other minor sources of pulp from Philippine plants are bowstring hemp, coconut coir, the leaf stalks of the nipa palm, parts of the betel-nut palm, the buri palm, and waste bejuco. Obviously mill waste could be worked up as paper pulp, particularly such waste wood as that left from the milling of lauan, cupang, and other Philippine softwoods.

BAVARIAN HOP PROSPECTS.

[Consul Charles S. Winans, Nuremberg, Germany, Aug. 31.]

Hop picking in Bavaria has just begun, and local experts have made statements about the hop trade in 1916 and the prospects for the present crop.

At the beginning of the year hop prices had reached one of the lowest levels in the history of the Nuremberg market. The poorer grades sold for \$4 a hundredweight. In April, however, an active speculation commenced and continued for several weeks, making the local market more active than in years of peace. The demand at first covered the poorer grades, which were soon out, and then extended to the better sorts, which rose to \$14 and \$15 per hundredweight.

The speculation produced a general increase of price of about \$7 per hundredweight for the different sorts, which continued until the beginning of August. Hops from the 1914 crop profited by this speculation and brought as high as \$8 per hundredweight. Since the beginning of August prices have fallen as a result of the more favorable crop outlook.

Reduction in Area—Price Outlook.

It is impossible to determine, without accurate statistics, just what reduction has been made in the area devoted to hop cultivation. The

estimates range between 30 and 40 per cent. It is probable that the amount is a good third. This, however, does not make allowance for those plantations where the plants have not been rooted out, but where only the poles have not been set and the plants trained thereon. It is thought that such plantations are rather numerous. When hop culture is again developed a replanting will be unnecessary here.

In spite of the favorable weather which set in the 1st of July the present hop crop is pronounced to be only middling. Since the breweries are well supplied and since large quantities of the 1915 as well as of the 1914 crop, as above stated, were purchased during the period of speculation extending from April to August, it is not likely that the demand for the coming crop will be great or that the prices will be very high. The hops bought by the speculators have been stored. After the war is ended and commercial relations with foreign countries reestablished it is hoped to sell them at a good profit. Until then the prospects of high hop prices are unfavorable.

[Supplementary report, dated Sept. 1.]

Hop Crop of 1916 in Germany and Austria.

In the *Fränkischer Kurier* (evening edition of Aug. 31, 1916) were published the hop estimate for the season of 1916 and data of the actual crop of 1915. These figures were prepared by the firm of M. Gütermann Söhne, in Saaz, Bohemia. The estimate of the 1916 crop was made on the supposition that the present favorable weather will continue.

District.	1915	1916	District.	1915	1913
GERMANY.			AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.		
	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Hollerland (Hallertau).....	96,475	60,000	Saaz.....	105,000	130,000
Spalt.....	20,020	15,000	Auscha and Dauba.....	33,000	30,000
Hersbrucker Land.....	31,074	7,000	Steiermark.....	15,000	12,000
Aischgrund.....	7,386	2,000	Upper Austria.....	3,000	1,500
Kindinger Land.....	5,090	3,000	Moravia.....	4,000	2,000
Württemberg.....	21,566	15,000	Galicia and adjoining territory.....	2,000	500
Alsace.....	75,644	40,000	Hungary.....	25,000	15,000
Baden.....	12,628	3,000			
Prussia.....	9,100	4,000			
Total.....	278,973	150,000	Total.....	187,000	191,003

The statistics are accompanied by the following brief comment:

The continuation of the world war induced a further considerable diminution of hop cultivation because other field crops offer larger agricultural returns. In spite of this the Central Powers raised sufficient hops for their own needs and for exportation to the neighboring neutral countries, regardless of the not inconsiderable supplies of hops of the past and other years which are stored away in the breweries. * * * Slightly higher prices are expected than in the preceding year, assuming that the over-sea export will not become possible during the season—in which case the prices would rise very high.

MOTION-PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY OF DISTANT OBJECTS.

The possibility of photographing objects at a distance of several miles by means of a moving picture camera has been investigated by the United States Bureau of Standards. For this purpose a camera of great focal length was constructed. It was found possible to take pictures of objects at a great distance.

EMPLOYEES OF LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE COMMENDED.

Several employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses have been commended during the past month by the Secretary or Acting Secretary of Commerce for services rendered in the saving of life and property under circumstances which in most instances required courageous action. Those commended by the Acting Secretary were:

J. M. Kendley, first officer, commanding, and the other officers and crew of the tender *Maple*, for going to the assistance of those on board the steamer *Severn* and the bugeye *Mary E. Fouble*, which collided in the vicinity of Lazaretto Depot, Md., August 28, 1916. A similar letter of commendation was sent Mr. W. H. Davis, keeper, Lazaretto Depot.

O. C. McCauley, keeper, and Charles Lennis, first assistant keeper, Squaw Island Light Station, Mich., for safely towing ashore the disabled launch *Phyllis*, of Scotts Point, Mich., with two occupants aboard.

David O. Kinyon, keeper, Guard Island Light Station, Alaska, for assistance rendered in towing to the station a disabled motor boat.

J. W. Leadbetter, commanding, and the other officers and crew of the tender *Fern*, who assisted in pulling the steamship *Admiral Farragut* clear of a shoal and removing and landing the 66 passengers at Petersburg, Alaska.

E. W. Bartow, commanding, and the other officers and crew of the tender *Azalea* who assisted in pulling off the schooner yacht *Hopewell*, of Providence, R. I., which was ashore with a party of five aboard, and towing her out in the Middle Ground, Vineyard Sound, Mass.

John H. Sullivan, second assistant keeper of White Shoal Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered to a motor boat which was found to be out of gasoline and drifting in the vicinity of Waugoshance, Mich.

John F. Hudgins, keeper of York Spit Light Station, Va., for the rescue of nine persons from a disabled launch.

For Assistance to Grounded Steamship.

Capt. Thomas S. Ludlam, commanding the lighthouse tender *Sunflower* for assistance rendered the steamship *Standard*, which had grounded in South Pass, La.

Mathias W. Streckert, keeper, and Otto H. Beadnell, second assistant keeper, of Sand Island Light Station, Ala., for maintaining a light from the tower of Sand Island Light Station throughout the hurricane of July 5, 1916, by substituting an oil wick lamp for the incandescent oil vapor apparatus when the vibration of the tower was so great that it prevented the operation of the incandescent oil vapor light.

Marion Brown, first assistant keeper of Sand Island Light Station, was commended for saving the lighthouse boat at his home at Dauphin Island and returning with it to Sand Island Light Station, immediately after the hurricane of July 5, 1916.

Thomas P. Roberts, assistant keeper of Aransas Pass Light Station, Tex., for remaining at the Aransas Pass Light Station, saving Government property, and continuing to exhibit the light when that station was almost a complete wreck after the hurricane of August 18, 1916.

Alexander McLean, keeper, and Charles G. Wright, first assistant keeper of Huron Island Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered the launch *Petrel*, which, with two men aboard, was discovered in a disabled condition in the vicinity of Huron Island Light Station, Mich.

Chance Fitzmorris, keeper of West Sister Island Light Station, Ohio, for the rescue of six persons from the yacht *Luella*, which capsized off West Sister Island, Ohio.

Elbert W. Bartow, commanding the lighthouse tender *Azalea*, for assistance rendered the boat *Nellie*, which was discovered in distress with two persons on board, off Pollock Rip Blue Northeast Channel Whistling Buoy, 2B, Mass.

Owen C. McCauley, keeper of Squaw Island Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered the tugboat *Margaret McCann*, which was discovered to be in a disabled condition.

The Secretary of Commerce commended Alfonso Sanchez Bermudez, keeper, and Antonio D. Jesus, assistant keeper of Muertos

Island Light Station, P. R., for assistance rendered Jose Valerio, whose boat, *La Gaviota*, was discovered in a sinking condition off Muertos Island, P. R.

DECREASE IN ITALY'S WINE PRODUCTION.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Aug. 26.]

Brandy, rum, cognac, and whisky are not extensively sold in Italy, but there is a large use of wine, especially at meals, by all classes of people. Wine is produced here in various ways. Some of the methods employed have been in use for many generations, and others are based on the most modern principles. There are both large and small producers.

There has been a decided decline in wine production during the past 3 years as indicated by the following figures: Total of 1,380,024,180 gallons in 1913; 1,137,246,322 gallons in 1914, and 503,376,355 gallons in 1915.

This decline has resulted in a rapidly increasing price, so that the cost of wine has now reached a level probably never before attained, and has brought about a more restricted use. Reduced production is reflected also in the size of the grape crop, which in 1914 was 6,799,600 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds) and in 1915 3,012,200 metric tons.

Prevailing Prices of Principal Wines.

Some of the principal Italian wines with their prevailing prices per gallon are: Monferrato wine (Piedmont). \$0.73 to \$0.80; Novi wine (Liguria). \$0.73 to \$0.77; Barbera d'Asti, \$0.73 to \$0.90; Valtellina wine. \$0.47 to \$0.51; Veronese wine, \$0.62 to \$0.87; Marsala wine. \$0.73 to \$0.80.

There is careful supervision of liquor establishments in Genoa. Fines are provided for selling impure or improper beverages, and establishments where there is a failure to observe the regulations are closed for a day or longer.

The barroom, in the American sense of the word, is unknown here. Hard and soft drinks, coffee, etc., are commonly dispensed at the same place. By a recent decree, a license for the sale of weak spirituous drinks is granted for each 500 inhabitants. In the case of strong alcoholic drinks, a license is granted for each 1,000 inhabitants.

Canal Traffic in August.

The number of ships passing through the Panama Canal in sea-going or commercial service in August was 142 (77 from the Atlantic to the Pacific and 65 from the Pacific to the Atlantic); in April, 1916, following the resumption of traffic, the number of ships through the canal was 80; in May it was 129; in June, 124; and in July, 149. The tolls earned in August amounted to \$417,080 (\$255,925 from ships passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific and \$191,155 from those passing from the Pacific to the Atlantic). With respect to nationality, the Panama Canal Record states that British vessels constituted exactly one-half of the August total, being nearly three times the number of American (26) and nearly seven times the number of Norwegian (11).

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**CANADA.**

[Customs Memorandum No. 2030R, Sept. 5.]

Drawback on Ship's Supplies.

The payment has been authorized of drawback equal to the customs duty on ships' stores delivered for transports owned, chartered, or controlled by the British Admiralty for use on board such vessels. The claim for drawback must be presented and sworn to before a collector of customs within six months after the delivery of the goods. [This is an extension of a former provision allowing drawback on stores for British and foreign warships and telegraph cable ships.]

MEXICO.

[Consul W. W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Aug. 11.]

Duty on Common Soap.

The free admission of common soap into Mexico, originally authorized by a decree of September 29, 1915, was suspended on August 21, 1916, according to an order of the Finance Department of the de facto Government dated August 7. The import duty to be levied is to be 0.05 peso per kilo, instead of 0.25 peso, the rate prescribed by the official customs tariff of Mexico. [As stated in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 27, 1916, a new tariff is to go into effect in Mexico Nov. 1, 1916, and this law may provide for a further change in the duty on common soap.]

RUSSIA.

[Vice Consul Felix Cole, Petrograd, May 30.]

Exemption of Gold-Mining Machinery.

An imperial decree has been issued exempting from duty for a period of 10 years the following machinery and apparatus for use in gold mining: Dredges and excavators and parts thereof; apparatus for grinding gold-bearing ore or for the chemical extraction of gold from ore and prospecting apparatus, together with parts thereof. The latter are entitled to free admission, whether or not imported at the same time as the principal article. The measure is retroactive, providing that all duties collected on such machinery and apparatus since January 1, 1916, shall be refunded. This concession is a restoration of an exemption which was in effect prior to January, 1909.

Excise Taxes on Tobacco.

The excise duty on imported cut smoking tobacco and tobacco in rolls and coils has been raised from 1 to 3 rubles per funt by a recent imperial decree, while the tax on cigars has been increased to 8.90 and that on cigarettes to 3.50 rubles per 1,000. [Ruble (par value), \$0.515; pood (40 funt), 36.1128 pounds.]

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[Board of Trade Journal, Aug. 10.]

Duties on Spirits and Tobacco.

The duties on alcoholic liquors, including wines, clarets, ale, beer, and cider, imported into the Straits Settlements have been greatly increased by an ordinance of June 16, 1916. Another ordinance of

the same date imposes heavy duties on tobacco products imported into Singapore (excluding Christmas Island and Cocos Islands), Penang, and Malacca, which are to continue in effect until December 31, 1926. [Schedules of the new rates are on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, May 30 and June 30.]

New Analysis Fees and Internal Taxes.

Fees for the analysis of beverages and food and of other products imported into Uruguay were prescribed by a law of May 27, 1916, which had been under consideration for several months. These charges are to be paid by means of stamps attached to the certificates of analysis. All beverages, whether alcoholic or not, are subject to analysis, and the fee payable for all except fermented beverages is 2 pesos per 2,500 liters if in casks, and 2 pesos per 100 cases if bottled. The charge for wines and fermented beverages in casks is 2 pesos per 5,000 liters, and for such beverages in bottles 2 pesos per 100 cases. Food products in general are subject to an analysis fee of 2 pesos for every 2,000 kilos. A decree of June 27, 1916, indicates the articles subject to this provision, which include the following: Sugar, glucose, confectionery, biscuits, cocoa, chocolate, coffee, tea, meats of all kinds, fish, cheese, canned goods, dates, dried fruits, condensed milk, flour, vermicelli, pickles, spices, vinegar, edible fats, and edible vegetable oils. Mixed textile goods, which are dutiable according to the percentage of various fibers, must be analyzed, and kerosene and alcohol are also included among the articles subject to analysis. All of the above are the minimum fees and will presumably be imposed where any fraction of the quantities indicated is imported. [Peso, \$1.035; liter, 1.0568 quarts; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.]

Internal Taxes on Toilet Preparations.

The original law further provides for a new schedule of stamp taxes on toilet preparations, both imported and domestic, replacing those established by the law of 1910. Extracts, lotions, brilliantine, creams, oils, and hair dyes for toilet use are subject to a stamp tax of 0.10 peso per bottle or box, and toilet waters and powders, cosmetics, dentifrices, and most toilet soaps to a tax of 0.05 peso per unit. Perfumes and toilet preparations not specified are subject to a tax of 0.02 peso for each container. Samples for advertising purposes are exempt from the tax, provided they do not exceed the following weights: Extracts and cosmetics, 5 grams; soaps of all kinds, 10 grams; lotions, 20 grams.

[A complete list of the articles subject to analysis is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

EGYPT'S BREWING INDUSTRY.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Aug. 30.]

No beer was produced in Egypt prior to 1899. In that year two breweries began operations, one each in Cairo and Alexandria. These two establishments continued brewing until 1908 when a third one entered the field in Alexandria. No definite statistics in regard to the beer production in Egypt are available. It is learned, however, from reliable sources, that from 1899 until 1907 the annual output of beer in Egypt aggregated approximately 660,000 gallons and from 1907 to 1914 about 1,320,000 gallons. During 1915, owing to the presence of allied troops in Egypt and curtailment of imports from Germany and Austria, the production probably reached 1,980,000 gallons, and it is estimated that during 1916 the output will touch 3,430,000 gallons. It is further stated that when normal conditions again exist the annual production of beer in Egypt will be about 2,115,000 gallons.

Hops were not imported into Egypt previous to 1899, there being no breweries. Before the war they were purchased from Austria-Hungary and Turkey, those from the latter country being much cheaper than those from the former. It was from this country that the first hops imported into Egypt originated. The quantity imported varies from year to year. In 1899 (the year in which the brewing industry was established in Egypt) 3,437 tons were brought in, but since that date the largest quantity received in any one twelve-month was 24 tons. This was in 1908. In 1909 the imports amounted to but 7 tons; in 1910 to 9 tons; in 1911 to 12 tons, declining in 1912 to 8 tons. In 1913 there were 14 tons imported; in 1914 8 tons; and in 1915 23 tons.

FRANCE HAS MARKET FOR FOREIGN BOTTLES.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, Aug. 26.]

The local production of bottles in Marseille at present is below the requirements, and it appears, therefore, that it would be possible to sell American bottles in this district, if delivery prices are suitable. The existing freight rates, in addition to the customs duty (5.25 francs for bottles of at least one-half liter capacity, or \$1.01 at standard rate of 19.3 cents per franc, per 100 kilos, or 220 pounds gross weight) would, however, probably prevent the profitable sale of ordinary bottles. It should be noted, also, that the standard bottles have a capacity of 1 liter (1.06 quarts). The lowest wholesale prices for the ordinary wine and beer bottles are now 28 francs (\$5.40 at the standard rate of exchange). The tendency is toward an increase in these prices.

There is a greater possibility of selling high-grade bottles for oil samples and perfumery. Quotations should be c. i. f. Marseille, or at least f. o. b. New York or other American port, with freight estimates. Correspondence in French is also desired, and measurements should be indicated in metric units.

[A list of Marseille firms dealing in glass bottles and glassware may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80358.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.	Celombo, Ceylon.	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.	Havre, France.	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland.	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.	Bristol, England.		1200 Ertaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Chm, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.

* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

RAILWAY FIRE PROTECTION IN CANADA.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Sept. 15.]

The work of preventing fires in Canada has been under the control of the board of railway commissioners for the past four seasons. Federal, provincial, and railway officials have cooperated with good results. Conservation, a Dominion publication, gives details of the work. There were 686 forest fires which originated within 300 feet of the railway lines under the board's control. The area burned was 37,263 acres, 33.1 per cent being chargeable to the railways, 20.9 to other known causes, and the remainder undetermined. The estimated damage was \$74,256, of which only 11.2 per cent is chargeable to the railways. Of all forest fires on property under the board's control, causes assigned are: Locomotives, 33.9 per cent; railway employees, 9.5 per cent; tramps, etc., 11.4 per cent; settlers, 12.5 per cent.

COTTONSEED MEAL IN CANADA.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 14.]

As each year passes the Canadian importation of cottonseed meal is increasing. A few years ago it could be bought only in the larger cities, but now the feed men in villages keep it on hand. A much greater demand could be created if a representative of the Cotton Seed Association were sent to Canada and spoke before the farmers' associations in this Province. Cottonseed meal is cheaper than bran, and as the farmers have for the past two years enjoyed a period of prosperity they would be willing to invest in the southern product, if convinced by experiments that their dairy products would be considerably increased and the additional expenditure warranted. It would undoubtedly be possible to arrange dates for meetings with the different agricultural societies in the Province of Ontario.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Machinery, No. 22585.—A business man in Brazil interested in the development of the salt industry informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of getting into touch with American manufacturers of machinery or appliances for making salt by evaporation. Correspondence in Portuguese or French.

Slate pencils, No. 22586.—An American consular officer in India writes that a business man in his district is in the market for American slate pencils, and desires quotations on 100 cases, c. i. f., port of destination, each case to contain 2,500 pencils and in some cases 5,000 pencils.

Hops, No. 22587.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that the representative of an association of brewers in that country wishes to communicate with American exporters of hops. Offers giving full details as to prices, terms of delivery, etc., should be sent immediately.

Spindle oils, No. 22588.—An American consular officer in Switzerland transmits the name and address of a business man in his district who desires to be placed in communication with an American firm with a view to acting as its representative for the sale of spindle oil in Switzerland. American reference furnished: Correspondence in English.

Machinery, No. 22589.—An American consular officer in Panama writes that a man in his district contemplates opening an office and storehouse for the sale of American machinery to the trade in South and Central America. Communication is desired with manufacturers of agricultural, mining, and other machinery. Catalogues, with prices and discounts, etc., should be sent.

Machine-making tools, No. 22590.—A mechanical engineer in a foreign insular possession advises an American consular officer of his desire to purchase tools for the manufacture of machinery to be employed in a machinery plant. He would also be willing to act as representative for an American manufacturer of such tools.

Cotton goods, hardware, etc., No. 22591.—The Bureau is informed that a man in China has made arrangements with a group of Chinese merchants to import for them direct, on an indent basis, cotton goods (especially gray sheeting, shirting, drills, etc.), and wire nails, for immediate shipment; also tapestry, furniture coverings, wall papers, buttons, office and stationery supplies, builders' sundries and hardware, sanitary fixtures, metal furniture fittings, small tools, shelf hardware, cutlery, paints and varnishes, galvanized iron sheets, rod iron, sheet pins, cotton and linen thread for lace making, etc. Quotations c. i. f. destination. Samples, where practicable, and catalogues, etc., are desired.

General representation, etc., No. 22592.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that two Venezuelan business men have organized a commission firm for the purpose of selling American goods. They desire propositions from American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is specified. Correspondence may be in English, but Spanish is preferred. References.

Essential oils, etc., No. 22593.—The Bureau is advised that a drug firm in France is interested in purchasing essential oils, petroleum jelly, vaseline oil, ceresines, waxes, dyestuffs, and lanolin. References.

OCT 19 1916

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 233 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 4 1916

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BRITISH GOVERNMENT REQUISITIONS LEATHER.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, dated Sept. 30.]

Notice has been given that the War Office intends to take possession of all leathers, finished or unfinished, of the following classes: Vegetable tanned bends of 6 pounds and upwards, butts of 12 pounds, backs of 8 pounds, vegetable tanned shoulders, medium and heavy butts of 1½ millimeters substance and upwards, kip sides except semichrome; also vegetable grained upper leathers, chrome leather, and upper leathers of any other process of 1½ millimeters substance. Sale or removal of any such leathers subject to permission from director of army contracts.

NEW ARCTIC PORT IN RUSSIA.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 21.]

The (British) Board of Trade is notified, through the Foreign Office, that the inauguration of a new town and ice-free port at the terminus of the Murman Railway, to be known as Murman, is expected to take place, by Imperial proclamation, on September 23. After that date the town will be open for residence and business purposes. Applications are being lodged with local authorities for allotments of plots of land. It is probable that certain privileges (low road rentals and reduced railroad rates for materials) will be granted in order to allow building operations to be commenced without delay.

COOPERAGE MATERIAL BADLY NEEDED.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Teneriffe, Canary Islands, Aug. 20.]

Great quantities of the well-known Canary Island wines, of both the claret and the sauterne types, are now being produced, and the trade is decidedly alarmed over the difficulties threatened as regards sufficient cooperage and barrel stock to handle the 1916 vintage. In 1914 the cooperage imports totaled \$40,000. Practically all of the stock comes knocked down and is assembled by the large wine dealers, most of whom maintain cooperage yards sufficient for their own

needs. Smaller wine merchants, however, give work to several handlers of cooperage and barrel stock.

Quotations this season have advanced from \$86 to \$108 per ton for barrel stock. There are no duties on either cooperage materials or barrel stock in any of the Canary Island ports. The point of greatest difficulty to be overcome by American exporters will probably be that of ocean freights, and these should be carefully investigated before c. i. f. shipments are made. As regards credits, present terms are usually cash against shipping documents, with 3 per cent discount on f. o. b. payment in an American port.

[A list of Canary Island dealers in cooperage and barrel stock may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 80400.]

WOOD PULP PROPERTIES TO BE OPERATED.

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 21.]

The Colonial Pulp and Paper Mills (Ltd.) has acquired control of pulp properties at Quatsino Sound on Vancouver Island and is proceeding with the erection of a large plant, the first unit of which will have a capacity of 60 tons a day. Seventy-five men are now engaged at Quatsino, clearing land for the building sites and constructing wharves, etc. Plans are completed for the plant and are now in the hands of the company, as are also the plans for a large number of dwellings for the workmen who will be engaged in the industry. The mills, docks, wharves, and dwellings at the town site will combine to make a completely organized and modern industry. When the Quatsino property reaches a capacity of 120 tons per day the plant will employ 600 men. On the first unit, which will be completed within 14 months, between 300 and 400 men will be employed.

The Empire Pulp and Paper Mills (Ltd.), capitalized at \$2,500,000, has taken over the old Swanson Bay pulp-wood manufacturing company, where a few years ago a pulp mill was started and operated for a short time. At Swanson Bay the overhauling of the plant is now under way. It is proposed that the plant shall be brought up to a capacity of 30 tons of sulphite fiber daily. This amount of product will employ 300 men.

PRIVATE COALING RIGHTS SOUGHT IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Sept. 12.]

The Mid-Ocean for September 6, 1916, publishes a report that parties abroad have approached the Corporation of St. Georges with a proposal that they be granted a limited base at Tiger Bay, St. Georges, as a site for a coal depot. Having obtained the site, they would build a substantial and permanent wharf front there, install suitable equipment, and otherwise organize it as a coaling depot for steamers calling at Bermuda for bunkers after the Town Cut Channel has been completed and opened to trade. The persons making this offer, it is understood, are English capitalists.

The Corporation of St. Georges held a meeting to consider the proposal, but postponed the subject to a subsequent meeting.

[A report on the Town Cut Channel of Bermuda was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 16, 1915.]

CONSTRUCTION WORK IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Aug. 21 and Sept. 4.]

Hospital Improvements.

Recent Government decrees have authorized the following improvements at the Hospital Comun Regional del Centro, Bell-Ville, Cordoba: Installation of water and sewerage services, work adjudicated after public call for tenders to the firm of Garbagnati, Angelieri, Jaccuzzi y Cia., Cordoba, 1501, Rosario; cost, approximately \$58,000; construction of a building to be used for an electric plant, to be erected under the supervision of the Comisión Asesora de Asilos y Hospitales Regionales, Buenos Aires, at a cost of \$15,000; installation of an electric plant and electric lighting at a cost of \$48,900, for which public tenders will be invited.

The National Government has further authorized the Comisión Asesora de Asilos y Hospitales Regionales, Buenos Aires, to invite public tenders for the execution of water and sewerage works in the Sanatorio Nacional de Tuberculosos, Santa Maria, Cordoba, at an estimated cost of \$62,700.

Concrete Bridge in Province of San Luis.

By a decree of August 23, 1916, the Dirección General de Puentes y Caminos (General Board of Bridges and Roads), Buenos Aires, has been authorized to invite tenders for the construction of a concrete bridge over the Rio Conlara, Santa Rosa, San Luis. The bridge is to have a span of 80 feet and a width of 20 feet and its cost is estimated at approximately \$16,000.

It was originally planned to construct a metallic bridge at a slightly higher cost. The difficulty of securing the necessary materials at present led the Dirección General de Puentes y Caminos to recommend concrete.

Improvement and Extension of Water Supply, Paraná.

By a decree of August 22, 1916, the Argentine Government approved the plans and specifications prepared for the improvement and extension of the water supply of the city of Paraná Entre Rios, and directed the National Board of Sanitary Works (Dirección General de Obras de Salubridad de la Nación, Ministerio de Obras Públicas, Buenos Aires) to carry out the work administratively. The estimated cost is \$178,000.

This is part of a vast scheme by which the National Government has provided and is still providing the principal Argentine cities with water and sewerage works.

Law Governing Purchase of Materials.

The law governing the purchase of materials provides that all contracts for supplies must be made after a preliminary call for tenders, except where the contract does not exceed 1,000 gold pesos (\$965). In certain cases, where it appears advisable, a different procedure may be followed, but in this event the authorization of the executive power given by the ministry as a whole is required. On account of the shortness of the time allowed for presentation of tenders and the necessity of familiarity with procedure in such cases (as well as when supplies are purchased directly), it is difficult to secure contracts unless the manufacturer or exporter is represented at Buenos Aires.

HIGH PRICES OF LUMBER IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

The price of lumber has materially advanced in New Zealand of late, notwithstanding the fact that the consumption has decreased more than 40 per cent in the Dominion since the beginning of the war. This increase is attributed to the advance in freight rates and the rapid consumption of the native supply.

Freight rates on Oregon pine to New Zealand are now \$36.49 per 1,000 feet, against \$6.68 in 1908, and it is difficult to get deck space at this advanced rate. Oregon pine is well received here for certain construction work, and there should be a good field here for this lumber as soon as reasonable freight rates can be obtained.

Comparative Prices of Different Classes of Lumber.

The following table gives the prices per 1,000 feet of different kinds and classes of Lumber in the markets of Auckland and Wellington, compared with those paid at the beginning of the war.

Kinds.	Wellington.		Auckland.	
	1914	Present price.	1914	Present price.
Rimu: Ordinary building	\$23.44	\$34.04	\$30.40	\$31.02
Totara:				
Heart, sawn, building	70.56	76.64	60.82	65.00
Clean	77.86	85.16	63.00	70.56
Second-class	53.83	58.39	30.40	31.02
Kauri:				
Heart, sawn	93.67	97.33	68.13	68.13
Dressed	99.76	106.40	72.90	72.90
Oregon pine:				
Building quality, sawn	55.96	68.13	48.06	60.82
Selected	63.26	72.90	58.38	70.56

The imports of Oregon pine for 1914 amounted to 8,625,595 board feet, but it is generally understood that the imports for 1915 fell far below the above amount.

Most of the better furniture and industrial lumber is imported, such as oak, ash, hickory, etc., and comes largely from the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan.

CONDITIONS IN SPANISH AMMUNITION TRADE.

[Vice Consul Harris N. Cookingham, Barcelona, Aug. 19.]

The manufacture and sale of explosives in Spain is a monopoly owned by the Government, which rented it for 20 years beginning in 1898 to the Unión Española de Explosivos, with headquarters at Madrid, Apartado No. 66.

By the terms of the agreement, the Union enjoys the exclusive right of sale and manufacture of all kinds of explosives in Spain, with the provision that the Government itself for the use of the army and navy may be excepted from the stipulation. The monopoly pays for its rights 3,000,024 pesetas (\$579,005) annually. It also pays 250 pesetas (\$48.25) a year on sales of dynamite when the sales do not exceed 110,000 boxes. If more than 110,000 boxes and fewer than 180,000 boxes are sold annually, it pays 6.25 pesetas (\$1.21) per box

of 25 kilos (55.11 pounds), and if over 160,000 boxes are sold annually it remits 12.50 pesetas per box to the Government.

Three Factories Now in Operation.

The prices for certain commodities are stipulated by the Government; those of other articles are fixed by the monopoly, but controlled by the Government. Previous to the grant of the monopoly, the Union was obliged to purchase the munition factories already established in Spain. Of the seven factories now belonging to the monopoly only three are in operation. Those execute orders especially for the filling of hunting cartridges. The monopoly purchases most of its supplies from England and the United States.

The Chamber of Commerce at San Sebastian is said to oppose the renewal of the Government's contract with the monopoly in 1917, and it is reported that other similar organizations have followed its lead.

In the protests it is contended that if the sale of explosives were free in Spain more munition factories would be established and, therefore, the country would be better prepared in case of war. It is also claimed that the high prices at which the explosives are actually sold for use in mining operations would be considerably reduced.

American manufacturers should address the Union mentioned. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Terms of sale should be clearly quoted and should compare not unfavorably with those granted under normal conditions by European manufacturers—generally credits of from 60 to 90 days, or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise. Undoubtedly the monopoly would be interested in receiving catalogues and price lists.

CANADIAN FLOUR MILL RESUMES OPERATION.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton. New Brunswick, Sept. 8.]

The Fawcett Milling Co. (Ltd.), of Moncton, which 28 years ago ceased grinding wheat and has since devoted itself exclusively to the manufacture of corn, oats, and buckwheat products, has now installed once more a flour-milling plant. This machinery was started this week.

At present the supply of local wheat (grown mainly in Kent and Albert Counties) is insufficient to keep the mill fully employed, and it has therefore been found necessary to import grain from the larger producing centers of the Canadian Northwest, the present price being \$1.70 per bushel f. o. b. Moncton. It is estimated that the demand for wheat flour in this immediate vicinity exceeds 100 barrels daily, and I have to-day been advised by the milling company that additions will doubtless be made to the plant once the success of the new venture has been demonstrated.

American manufacturers of jute and cotton sacks and sacking twine will be interested to learn that only a relatively small proportion of the flour, meal, and feed ground in this district is delivered to consumers in barrels. Bags are now more generally acceptable as containers, and these, owing to the prevailing scarcity, are abnormally expensive and difficult to obtain. To such an extent is this the case that secondhand bags are being bought to satisfy present needs.

HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 9.]

A statement has just been given out by the chief electrical engineer connected with the Public Works Department of New Zealand covering the Lake Coleridge Government Hydroelectric Plant located on the outlet of Lake Coleridge in the Canterbury District in the South Island, this being the first Government electric plant on a large scale in this Dominion.

This plant has cost the Government \$1,601,079, and the first year's operation shows that the plant paid operating expenses, although only a small proportion of the power was sold. The Government has installed generators with a capacity of 5,000 horsepower, and two additional units are now being put in, which will bring the power up to 10,000 horsepower, and it is thought that all of this will be taken by the tramway companies and the industrial interests in and about Christchurch, the industrial section being located 40 to 60 miles from the hydroelectric plant.

Prices of Electric Light and Power—Electric Vehicles.

According to the report, the introduction of hydroelectric power into Christchurch has caused the retail price for domestic lighting to fall from 12 cents to 6 cents per unit, and the retail price for power from 6 cents to 3 cents per unit, and the price for power in bulk from 4½ cents to 1 cent per unit.

It is reported that there are a few electric vehicles in Christchurch using current from this plant, with the result that the power costs much less than one-half of the cost of benzene or gasoline. It seems that there is a good field here for electric vehicles of all kinds, since the Government is inclined to put in charging stations wherever it would seem practicable.

This seems to demonstrate that the hydroelectric development in New Zealand can be successfully undertaken by the New Zealand Government, and it is proposed to install similar plants in the North Island, and with that in view surveys are being extensively made of two special systems, each located within a radius of 100 miles of Auckland.

It is probable that these schemes will be well in hand for development shortly after the close of the war, and it would be well for American interests to get in touch so as to be posted in regard to these developments as they proceed.

Imports of Electrical Machinery.

The following table shows the imports of electrical machinery into New Zealand for the year 1914 with the share of each country:

Kinds.	Australia.	Germany.	Sweden.	United Kingdom.	United States.	All other countries.	Total.
Batteries and cells.....	\$530	\$1,411	\$372	\$19,736	\$14,064	\$2,143	\$37,356
Generators, motors, and transformers.....	1,290	26,493	2,316	267,127	112,572	9,276	419,074
Insulated cable and wire.....	7,275	77,455	.....	571,814	5,368	33,915	686,828
Lamps.....	1,085	23,637	321	101,834	33,608	21,574	182,469
Carbon and insulating materials.....	17,709	9,801	88	31,228	4,166	304	63,306
Meters, household supply or station.....	886	9,582	.....	49,745	847	381	61,391
Telephones and accessories therefor.....	1,212	2,750	84,701	52,145	11,806	13,986	266,600
Appliances, not otherwise enumerated.....	19,666	33,949	1,465	315,490	126,629	14,389	510,588
Total.....	49,653	185,078	80,158	1,408,214	806,055	96,818	2,136,426

The imports for the six months ended June 30, 1916, were as follows:

Kinds.	Australia.	Germany.	Sweden.	United Kingdom.	United States.	All other countries.	Total.
Batteries and cells.....	\$516			\$22,381	\$13,923	\$5,085	\$41,906
Generators, motors, and transformers.....	774	\$316	\$2,380	92,011	107,117	997	203,575
Insulated cable and wire.....	774			482,616	18,011	2,641	504,042
Lamps.....	24	190	204	57,648	20,123	20,878	99,067
Carbon and insulating materials.....	667	15		8,838	4,672	1,079	15,271
Motors, household supply or station.....				25,014	3,251	73	28,338
Telephones and accessories therefor.....	19		6,983	51,127	20,795	10	78,934
Appliances, not otherwise enumerated.....	6,662	472	5,397	157,037	103,651	10,165	283,384
Total.....	9,436	993	14,944	806,672	291,543	40,930	1,254,516

Opportunity for American Goods.

It will be noted from the above tables that the imports for the first six months of 1916 were relatively greater than those for the year 1914, and that the United States made a material advance, especially in generators, motors, and transformers, and from present indications the American imports are liable to increase even more during the second half of 1916.

There certainly is a good opening here at this time for American electrical machinery and appliances, and American manufacturers and exporters will do well to study this market, for electric development in New Zealand is really in its infancy, and the next few years will see marked progress along this line, since financial conditions are good and the advantages of cheap electrical power in New Zealand is becoming well understood.

IMPORTS OF OLIVE OIL INTO BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

Portugal has recently been the chief source of Brazil's supply of olive oil; formerly it was Italy. Of the total imports of this article, amounting to \$1,635,619 in 1915, Portugal supplied \$849,507 worth and Italy \$483,862 worth. The amounts imported from each country during the past five years were as follows:

Countries of origin.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Germany.....	\$219	\$203	\$291	\$83	\$13
Argentina.....	53	6,988	25,590	20,264	13,915
United States.....	2,349	1,165	82	7	657
France.....	146,379	168,154	165,493	95,054	125,440
Great Britain.....	1,049	679	514	9	2,332
Spain.....	249,757	343,435	336,443	187,652	149,206
Italy.....	503,407	762,522	656,478	574,195	483,862
Paraguay.....	76		484	24	1,002
Turkey.....					
Asiatic.....	1,870	3,062	2,419	2,109	35
European.....		32		189	44
Uruguay.....	9	15,671	15,516	6,639	9,601
Portugal.....	833,232	949,318	633,935	428,599	849,507
All other countries.....	1,073	366	1,255		
Total.....	1,739,473	2,251,695	1,838,500	1,314,794	1,635,619

SPAIN'S PAPER INDUSTRY AND PURCHASES.

[Vice Consul Harris N. Cookingham, Barcelona, Aug. 8.]

The paper industry in Spain is seriously suffering from the effects of the war. Under normal conditions, however, although Spain imports considerable quantities each year, the domestic production of papers, especially those of ordinary quality, is more than sufficient for domestic needs.

As a result of embargoes placed by Sweden upon wood pulp for paper, a scarcity of material was feared in this country, but the Spanish Government has now obtained authorizations for the importation of such material. Nevertheless, the prices, on account of the greatly increased freight rates and the cost of chemicals for the industry, are exceedingly high.

All Quoted at Practically Double Former Cost.

Ordinary paper such as is used for dailies, which cost formerly 34 pesetas per 100 kilos (about \$2.97 per 100 pounds), now costs 68 pesetas (\$5.95 per 100 pounds). All kinds and classes of papers are quoted at practically double their former cost.

The sizes of paper finding most general use here are 56 by 88 centimeters (22 by 34.6 inches); 65 by 95 centimeters (25.6 by 37.4 inches); 70 by 100 centimeters (27.6 by 39.4 inches); 77 by 110 centimeters (30.3 by 43.3 inches).

In the absence of official statistics of the Spanish paper production, only general estimates can be given. It is believed that the paper most largely manufactured here is the "papel de barba" (vellum paper), of which the 25 factories, mostly in the Catalonian district, it is estimated, produce in the aggregate from 1,500 to 1,600 reams a day. This paper is extensively used in Spain for all kinds of contracts and official documents. The value of the vellum paper produced, together with Spanish bristol board, totals some 7,000,000 pesetas yearly. Probably 20 per cent is exported.

Domestic Demand Increasing Each Year.

Paper in rolls is manufactured chiefly in the northern Provinces of Spain, where a few years ago the annual production reached about 50,000 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each, yielding an annual surplus of some 15,000 metric tons over the domestic consumption. The paper was accordingly marketed at a low price. Practically all the paper factories are now syndicated, and the work is distributed among them in order to prevent overproduction. It is predicted that within four or five years they will be able to work to a full capacity, inasmuch as the domestic demand increases each year by about 2,000 tons.

Medium fine and fine papers are produced in Spain to the estimated extent of some 27,000 metric tons a year, quantities greater than the demand. Cigarette paper is also manufactured and exported in considerable quantities. Of the ordinary papers, that made of esparto is exported largely to South American countries, where it is used for wrapping.

There is very little manufacture of fine writing papers in Spain and these are extensively imported. The same is true of blotting papers. Wall paper, which in many sections of the country is entirely unknown, and is used principally in the territory within the

jurisdiction of this consulate general, is imported from France, England, and Germany.

Group of Manufacturers Supplies Newspapers.

Newspaper plants here are supplied by an organization representing a group of eight leading manufacturers. There are also six or seven smaller manufacturers. An important daily at Barcelona formerly had a factory producing paper for its own use. This factory was about to supply paper also for other periodicals when the organization mentioned, it is reported, agreed to pay a monthly amount for the factory's rights.

American exporters would do well to offer their most attractive terms of sale, which should compare not unfavorably with the terms granted under normal conditions by European manufacturers. These are generally credits of from 60 to 90 days, or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise. Better results are likely to be obtained if correspondence with dealers here is in Spanish.

[Lists of wholesale paper dealers in Barcelona, and of printers in the Barcelona district, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80111.]

NOTES FROM PERSIA.

[Chargé d'Affaires Jefferson Caffery, American Legation, Teheran.]

Caspian Fisheries—Factories Lacking.

There exist extensive fisheries, principally of sturgeon and sterlet, on the shores of the Caspian. A Russian company controls this industry and exports large quantities of dried fish and caviar.

Factories, as that word is understood in the United States, do not exist in Persia. Manufactures are the output of private workshops or the production of particular sections. In this manner are produced silk, woolen, and cotton tissues and artistic manufactures. The customs of the trade are regulated by associations of workmen.

Persian Camels—Hides and Skins—Wool Districts.

The best camels in Persia are the powerful one-humped kind which are bred in the Province of Khorassan. This animal can carry a burden of 600 pounds at the rate of 20 miles a day. The ordinary Persian camel, however, will carry 400 pounds at the rate of 15 miles a day.

Large quantities of skins and hides are exported in ordinary times to Bagdad and to Russia. The principal tanneries and leather factories are at Hamadan. The principal centers for exportation are Hamadan, Shiraz, Isfahan, and Khorassan.

The chief districts where wool is produced in Persia are Khorassan, Fars, Luristan, Azerbaijan, Kermanshah, and Kurdistan. The best quality comes from Khorassan. The trade is in the hands of Armenians, and exports are increasing.

Mineral Resources of Persia.

The zones producing minerals are (1) the Province of Azerbaijan, (2) the slopes of the Elburz range, (3) Khorassan, (4) Kerman, (5) the districts around Isfahan and Nain, and (6) the region of Persian Gulf.

In Azerbaijan iron, lead, and copper ores exist in abundance. Lead is found in Khalkal region. Coal is dug near Tabriz. The

slopes of the Elburz are rich in deposits of coal and iron. Turquoise mines are found in Khorassan, and also copper, coal, and salt. Kerman produces copper, lead, manganese, marble, borax, turquoises, iron, mercury, nickel, and cobalt. In the southern region along the Persian Gulf the chief minerals found are naphtha, rock salt, and iron ochre.

The intrinsic value of these minerals is great, but their worth as articles of commerce depends entirely upon their situation, as means of transportation are extremely difficult, the cost of machinery is very high, and the questions of ownership and concessions from the Government are difficult to arrange.

PLUMBAGO SITUATION IN CEYLON.

[Vice Consul John A. Nye, Colombo, Aug. 1.]

Plumbago is the most important of Ceylon's minerals. It is mined from open pits in the form of almost pure carbon. The best quality comes from the Kurunegalla district. It is placed in barrels at the mines, 500 pounds to the barrel, and hauled by bullock cart to Colombo. Four barrels constitute the ordinary load.

At the plumbago yard it is cleaned and sorted into five different grades, according to size and quality. These grades are described as Large Lumps, Ordinary Lumps, Chips, Dust, and Flying Dust. Each grade is further divided into four classes on the basis of carbon content, color, and quality. It is thus seen that when a barrel of plumbago comes from the mine it contains 20 different grades and qualities of the mineral. All of the work of sorting and cleaning is done by coolie hand labor.

Market Prices.

The Colombo market price of plumbago as recorded in the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Weekly Price Current for July 24, 1916, is, per ton: Large and Ordinary Lumps, \$129.75 to \$438; Chips, \$97.35 to \$308.20; Dust, \$24.35 to \$113.55; Flying Dust, \$13 to \$64.90. At the beginning of the war the market price of Ordinary Lump plumbago was approximately \$150 per ton. As soon as it was discovered that munition manufacturers needed plumbago the price began to rise. It suffered a temporary setback when the embargo was placed on shipments to America during the early part of 1915. With the removal of the embargo the market recovered, until in July of this year the price f. o. b. Colombo on shipments to the United States reached \$485 per ton.

There is not a very large demand at present for the cheaper grades of Dust and Flying Dust. The demand from America is confined principally to Ordinary Lumps, Chips, and the better qualities of Dust.

Exports and Distribution.

In 1912 Ceylon exported 651,261 hundredweight of plumbago; in 1913, 579,941 hundredweight; in 1914, 284,562 hundredweight; in 1915, 436,351 hundredweight; and up to July 24, 1916, 338,110 hundredweight. [Hundredweight = 112 pounds.] Prior to the war the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, and Russia were the chief purchasers. Since the commencement of the war the bulk of the exports has gone to the United States, the United

Kingdom, and Russia. The distribution of plumbago exports from Ceylon for the period January 1 to July 24 for the years 1915 and 1916 was as follows:

Exported to—	Jan. 1 to July 24—	
	1915	1916
United States.....	Cwt. 89,007	Cwt. 230,784
United Kingdom.....	73,202	81,726
Russia.....	14,019	21,031
Australia.....	1,721	3,409
India.....	465	1,141
Japan.....	2	
Total.....	179,086	388,110

The foregoing figures are from the issue of the Weekly Price Current already referred to.

Declared Export Returns.

The shipments of plumbago from Ceylon to the United States, as recorded at the Colombo consulate, amounted to 82,840 hundredweight, valued at \$956,877, in the March quarter of the present year, and to 129,809 hundredweight, valued at \$1,688,874, in the June quarter, making a total of 212,649 hundredweight (10,632 long tons), value \$2,645,751, for the first half of 1916.

For the year 1915 the declared plumbago exports from Ceylon to the United States totaled 272,160 hundredweight (13,608 long tons), valued at \$1,957,197. As will be noted, the quantity exported to America for the current half year was only 59,520 hundredweight (2,976 tons) less than for the entire year 1915, while the value was \$688,554 greater.

During the year 1915 the United States took 62 per cent of the total exports of plumbago from the island. During the first quarter of the current year the proportion was 66 per cent of the total.

New Export Duty—Cost of Casks—Freights.

The new export duty of 3 per cent ad valorem, effective on and after July 22, 1916, takes the place of the old duty of \$1.62 per ton, which was imposed by way of royalty under Ordinance No. 21, of 1873. On a market valuation of \$400 per ton for Ordinary Lumps the new rate represents an increase of 640 per cent. It is the opinion of local brokers that the enhanced duty will not affect the trade in plumbago materially, for, it is pointed out, the duty will be borne not so much by the producer as by the consumer, and under present abnormal conditions there is a strong demand for all of the better grades of the mineral that can be produced.

An important factor affecting the cost of plumbago production is the rise in price of casks and hoop iron. Barrels have advanced in price from \$1 to \$2.50 each, while hoop iron has gone up in price from \$50 to approximately \$150 per ton.

The freight rate in effect on plumbago shipped from Colombo to New York is \$34.80 per ton, plus a war surcharge of 50 per cent on shipments via the Cape of Good Hope. In addition to this there is a supplementary charge of 10 per cent on the total of the gross freight and surcharge. This high freight rate is given by traders as explaining the poor demand for the cheaper grades of plumbago. On these lower qualities of Dust and Flying Dust the cost of freight amounts to much more than the value of a ton of the mineral.

ARGENTINE FOREIGN COMMERCE FOR SIX MONTHS.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 5.]

According to advance information given out by the Director General of Statistics, the balance of trade in favor of Argentina during the first six months of 1916 amounted to \$136,152,734, United States gold. The balances during the first half of each of the last three years have been at follows: 1914, \$38,723,223; 1915, \$203,405,072; and 1916, \$136,152,734.

The value of the total foreign commerce of the Republic for the first half of each of the last three years has been as follows: 1914, \$371,284,347; 1915, \$396,652,138; and 1916, \$338,737,984.

The imports during the first six months of 1916 were valued at \$101,292,625, compared with \$96,623,633 for the corresponding period in 1915 and \$165,031,081 in 1914. The exports for the three periods amounted to \$237,445,359, \$300,028,505, and \$206,253,266, respectively.

Principal Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported and exported during the first half of 1916, with the increase (+) or decrease (—) compared with the same period in 1915, the values being in American gold:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) over 1915.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) over 1915.
IMPORTS.			IMPORTS—continued.		
Live animals.....	\$1,251,032	+ \$712,724	Agricultural products....	\$2,773,010	+ \$1,361,085
Food products.....	12,366,531	— 807,632	Stones, earthenware, glass, earthenware.....	9,510,223	— 3,312,214
Tobacco, and manufac- tures of.....	2,033,627	+ 402,883	Electrical materials.....	1,704,032	+ 727
Liquors.....	2,557,900	— 300,485	All other articles.....	3,792,034	+ 213,520
Textiles, and manufac- tures of.....	29,241,682	+ 8,104,842	Total.....	101,292,722	.....
Oils of all kinds.....	7,752,891	— 2,019,392	EXPORTS.		
Chemicals and drugs.....	6,042,245	— 261,611	Pastoral products.....	118,074,434	+11,771,078
Colors and dyes.....	763,548	+ 35,029	Agricultural products.....	102,132,067	— 98,462,340
Woods, and manufac- tures of.....	4,526,006	+ 992,458	Forest products.....	13,475,183	+ 6,306,011
Paper, and manufac- tures of.....	3,224,079	+ 557,620	Mineral products.....	432,861	+ 419,506
Leather, and manufac- tures of.....	1,098,619	+ 229,661	Hunting and fishing.....	852,415	— 26,964
Iron, and manufactures of.....	9,603,947	— 1,597,196	All other articles.....	1,568,915	— 1,472,071
Other metals, and man- ufactures of.....	3,029,037	+ 358,971	Total.....	237,445,359	.....

The first half of the year 1916 was commercially disappointing. Import duties collected amounted to \$22,141,067 United States currency, or an increase over 1915 of \$3,353,353, but these were much smaller than in 1913 and 1914. The total customhouse receipts, port dues, and other items amounted to \$25,625,141, an increase of \$3,068,908. The value of imports subject to duties was \$15,681,773 greater in 1916 than in 1915, while that of the duty-free merchandise was less by \$11,012,581.

No gold was exported in the first half of 1916. The amount imported was \$12,723,289, exceeding by \$11,114,291 the imports in 1915 for the same period. In the first half of the 10 years, 1907 to 1916, the imports of gold have exceeded the exports by about \$194,202,457.

Among the imports of 1916 there were decreases in food products, liquors, oils of all kinds, chemicals and drugs, iron and manufactures of, and in stones, earths, glass, and earthenware.

Large Decrease in Exports of Agricultural Products.

The exports of agricultural products show a large decrease, amounting to \$98,462,340, caused chiefly by the scarcity of steamers for transporting wheat, corn, oats, and linseed, and owing to the decrease in prices of the first three articles. Wheat exports fell off \$68,263,810; corn, \$12,368,817; oats, \$8,234,355; and linseed, \$4,987,084. Animal products show an increase of about \$12,000,000, and forest products of about \$6,000,000. The increases in the animal products covered chiefly frozen and chilled meats and hides and skins, those in forest products, quebracho logs and extract, and the higher prices for these articles.

U. S. ARMY PURCHASES BEEF FROM TSINGTAU.

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China, Aug. 18.]

On August 7 the United States Army transport *Warren* sailed from Tsingtau with 2,436 quarters of beef for the use of the American Army in the Philippine Islands. This was the first shipment under a contract for 6,000,000 pounds of fresh frozen beef and 150,000 pounds of fresh frozen mutton made by the Quartermaster Corps, United States Army, Manila, P. I., with Mr. William Katz, an American residing in China. The price was 9½ cents United States gold per pound. This contract, signed April 4, 1916, marks an innovation, as hitherto meat for the Army in the Philippines has been purchased principally from Australia.

The erection of the refrigerating plant necessary for the freezing of this meat was an achievement of American energy and ability. The Imperial Japanese military administration in Tsingtau, which throughout the transaction gave cordial assistance to the project, approved the lease of the site on April 15, 1916. Work was started on May 3, 1916, and the plant was completed in 66 days, although the plant has a capacity of 750 tons of frozen meat monthly. The stack of 120 feet was erected in 12 days. The speed with which the Americans in charge erected the plant and installed the machinery is the more remarkable when it is known that all the workmen were Chinese and Japanese who understood no English and that the machinery and boilers had to be transported from the Philippines via Japan. The refrigerating machinery was purchased in Manila and is of the ammonia system, comprising two vertical type compressors manufactured in York, Pa., and three tubular boilers from Oswego, N. Y.

Attention has been drawn to Tsingtau in previous reports as the foremost port in China for the exportation of beef and as the site of a model abattoir erected and conducted before the war by the German administration. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 13, 1915.] It is hoped that the present venture will mark a great increase in the trade with the Philippine Islands. The Russian Army authorities at Vladivostok, Siberia, have for many years secured large quantities of beef at Tsingtau.

SPANISH MARKET FOR FOUNTAIN PENS.

[Vice Consul Harrie N. Cookingham, Barcelona, July 19.]

There is apparently an excellent opportunity in Barcelona for the sale of American fountain pens, provided they can compete successfully with the various makes already known here. The prices at which fountain pens are sold locally range from \$0.18 upward. The cheapest varieties of Spanish manufacture are extensively used, and pens costing from \$1 to \$2 are also largely marketed. Fountain pens with silver or gold-mounted holders are favored among purchasers of means.

In introducing a product here through any of the local dealers, it would be best to correspond in the Spanish language and quote the terms of sale very clearly. These should compare not unfavorably with the conditions granted by European manufacturers—often a credit of 60 to 90 days, or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise.

Tariff Charges on Writing Materials.

According to the Spanish customs tariff, paragraph No. 709 stipulates that "writing materials, except those of gold or silver not expressly comprised in other numbers of the tariff," pay an import duty of 1.5 pesetas per kilo net weight (about \$0.13 per pound). The gold pens themselves are dutiable under paragraph No. 52 of the tariff, which reads "gold, silver, and platinum manufactured into other articles, and in semimanufactured jewelry," 3.60 pesetas per hectogram net weight (about \$3.16 per pound avoirdupois). Thus it is essential that the weights of both penholders and pens be given separately in bills of lading for shipments intended to be entered here.

[A list of dealers in fountain pens at Barcelona may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79242.]

WEEKLY COTTON STATEMENT.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ended September 30, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	24,628	Virginia.....	.....
Massachusetts.....	1,014	Galveston.....	51,778
Maryland.....	4,432	New Orleans.....	14,390
New York.....	30,855	San Francisco.....	8,838
North Carolina.....	7,400	Washington.....	934
Philadelphia.....	1,900		
South Carolina.....	.....	Total.....	146,169

The exports of 146,169 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 903,559 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 217,914 bales for the week and 655,119 bales in the cotton year.

SHIPPING RETURNS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL.

[Consul George H. Peckerell, Para, Brazil, Sept. 5.]

The annual report of the Commercial Director of the Lloyd-Brazileiro Steamship Line for the year 1915 has just been made public, and it is interesting to note the large volume of business realized by the American branch of the line.

During the year, besides a number of chartered foreign vessels, the following steamers were engaged in this service: *Minas Geraes*, *Tapajos*, *Purus*, *Tocantins*, *Acre*, *S. Paulo*, *Rio de Janeiro*, *Sergipe*, and *Pyrineos*. These steamers carried to the United States 10,928,001 pounds of rubber, 1,447,049 sacks of coffee, 12,231 sacks of cocoa, 492,730 pounds of hides and skins, 411,359 pounds of Brazil nuts, and 1,105,491 pounds of meat. The freight on these articles was as follows: Cacao, \$12,231; coffee, \$1,172,056; hides and skins, \$7,221; meat, \$13,883; rubber, \$122,884; and nuts, \$2,458.

The principal article of import brought by these steamers from the United States was flour, 203,759 pieces, the freight receipts amounting to \$116,856.

Passenger Traffic—Receipts of American Branch.

The movement of passengers to and from the United States increased considerably during the year, the number being 3,240 first class and 1,676 third class. The receipts under this item amounted to \$219,531.

The total receipts of the American branch of the line, including the passenger traffic and freight, both ways, was \$4,013,083. This sum also includes the receipts of the chartered foreign vessels.

The distance covered by the steamers engaged in the American service during the year was 479,020 miles.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1206 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T. e.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E. b.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	.....

* Consul Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

* Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Machinery, No. 22594.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that the director of a school of agriculture in his district desires catalogues, price lists, etc., of machinery for the manufacture of starch from yucca. Propositions for grating machinery, settling tanks, etc., from one firm are desired.

Machinery, No. 22595.—A firm in the Far East informs an American consular officer of its desire to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of machines for manufacturing photo-jewelry, such as medallions, brooches, photo-buttons, etc.

Nitrate of potash, etc., No. 22596.—An American consular officer in Switzerland transmits the name of a commission agent who desires quotations on nitrate of potash and caustic soda for dyestuff purposes. From 100 to 500 tons will be required. Correspondence in French or German.

Stationery, No. 22597.—The Bureau is informed that the client in Brazil of a New York firm is in the market for stationery of all kinds for government departments and government schools.

Zinc concentrates, No. 22598.—An Australian company informs an American consular officer of its desire to dispose of between 8,000 and 9,000 tons of zinc concentrates. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

Paper, No. 22599.—An importing firm in Spain informs an American consul that it is in the market for all kinds of wall paper, photographic paper, printing paper, etc., and that it desires to secure the representation in Spain of American paper manufacturers. Correspondence in English. References.

Machinery, No. 22600.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in Africa reports the contemplated erection by the Government of a plant to crush 1,000,000 pounds of cotton seed per annum. Information and catalogues from American manufacturers of cottonseed crushing machinery and other appliances necessary for the production of cottonseed oil are desired by the head of the tobacco and cotton division, Department of Agriculture in that territory.

Textile machinery, etc., No. 22601.—An American consular officer in Japan writes that a rope works in his district desires to receive catalogues, terms, etc., on doublers and filers for large-size cotton twines. Similar data concerning textile machinery of all kinds should be sent to a cotton spinners' association for distribution among cotton spinning companies. Date of delivery after receipt of complete specifications should be stated.

Distillery, sugar mill, and paper mill, No. 22602.—An American consular officer in Central America reports that a concession has been granted to an American company for the erection and operation of a distillery, a sugar mill, and a paper mill.

Pumps, No. 22603.—A firm in the Netherlands desires catalogues, price lists, and other information regarding electrically driven water pumps.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

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No. 234 Washington, D. C., Thursday, October 5 1916

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MODIFICATION OF FRENCH EMBARGO.

[Cablegram from the American Consulate General, Paris, Oct. 4.]

A ministerial order of September 30 permits exportation to Great Britain, British dominions, protectorates, and colonies, uninvaded Belgium, Japan, Russia, and American countries of the following goods: All fatty acids; sulphurous anhydride; arrack; asphalt; whale and cachalot spermaceti; borax, boracic acid; other boron compounds; calcareous bitumen; cinnamon; metallic chlorides, except gold and platinum chlorides; metalloidal chlorides; blacking; glue, all kinds, and materials therefor, including egg or serum albumen; dried blood; gelatine and glues made from hides, from hide and leather waste and animal refuse; dextrin; soluble starches; feldspar; cloves; manufactures of lead; sodium; varnish.

[The decree prohibiting the exportation of the above-named articles was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 21.]

NEW BRUNSWICK'S POTATO CROP.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 26.]

The 1915 potato crop in this Province was smaller than in either of the preceding two years. Prices were poor in 1914, while wet weather and the prevalence of fungus diseases affected the business. The 1915 prices began after harvest at \$1.50 per barrel and reached twice that figure by the end of the year. The price now is from \$2 to \$2.25 per barrel.

Potatoes in this district have suffered some damage from bugs, and a local dealer says the size of the crop this year will be affected by the scarcity of seed that was experienced at the opening of the season. The superintendent of the experiment farm reported from Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick, at the close of July, that the potato-crop area is considerably smaller than for some years.

The Dominion Commissioner of Agriculture during a visit to this district has stated that the light potato crop in western Canada will force people there to purchase in eastern Canada. The crop is also light in Ontario, where imports will probably be made this year.

UNIFORM LICENSE FEE FOR TRAVELERS IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. H. Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 5.]

According to an article appearing in *La Nacion* of September 5, the Minister of the Treasury of Argentina has stated that within a few days the President will send to Congress a bill creating a uniform license for commercial travelers to be valid throughout the whole country.

The revenue to be obtained from these license fees is to be distributed pro rata among the Provinces in proportion to the number of inhabitants in each according to the last census. The federal Government will participate also in this pro rata arrangement, receiving the share corresponding to the population of the city of Buenos Aires and the Territories.

The provisions of the bill have been taken almost entirely from the proposal presented to the Pan-American financial conference of last April in Buenos Aires by one of the delegates, Mr. Luis E. Zuberbuehler. The representatives of the various commercial bodies have been consulted regarding the principal clauses of the proposed law and have expressed their approval.

License Will be Transferrable.

Licenses that may be authorized according to the law will be transferable, on condition that the successor of the original licensee prove to the competent authority that he represents the same houses and the same line as his predecessor. The commercial traveler will have the right to sell samples of commercial value without a special importer's license, but is not to sell them as merchandise. Samples without commercial value are to be exempt from import duty, and the provision authorizing the temporary free admission, under bond, of other sample articles is continued in force.

[Under the existing law commercial travelers are subject to separate license fees in each Province of Argentina, and the taxes payable by a traveler soliciting orders in every Province of the country amount to more than \$2,500.]

WOOD PULP INDUSTRY IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 1.]

Supplementing my report on the "Manufacture of wood pulp and paper in New Zealand" [published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 1, 1915], it is announced that the New Zealand Wood Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Co. (Ltd.) has been incorporated, with headquarters at Christchurch, for the purpose of developing the concession mentioned in the above report, and it is estimated that before very long the plant will be producing 20 to 25 long tons of paper daily. It is proposed to manufacture principally news paper in rolls. According to statistics the consumption of this class of news paper amounts to about 40 tons per day, and it is thought that a market can be found for all the print paper that can be manufactured by this company.

The plant is to be supplied with water power by harnessing one of the streams in the vicinity. The cost of this installation is estimated at about \$500,000.

MEXICAN SHIPMENTS OF COTTON SEED INCREASED.

[Vice Consul William P. Blocker, Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Sept. 20.]

Exports of cotton seed from the Laguna district near Torreon, Coahuila, invoiced at the Piedras Negras consulate since January 1, 1916, show an increase over corresponding periods in previous years.

The annual yield of cotton seed from the Laguna district, which may be called the cotton belt of Mexico, formerly was consumed by the soap factories and refineries at Torreon and Mexico City. Contracts for the whole output of the Laguna district for a score of years were made between the raisers and manufacturers mentioned, and delivery was made at Torreon until 1913.

Change in Handling of Laguna Seed.

When conditions became such that the refineries and soap factories were unable to operate with assurance of receiving guaranties from the de facto authorities, they could not consume the seed in Mexico, but their contracts were fulfilled with the plantation owners by shipping the seed to the United States, where there was a ready sale, and the raisers received good profits. In the present year, however, there has been a change in the handling of the Laguna seed as a result of a decree issued by the de facto authorities annulling all contracts made by the plantation owners with private firms and restricting their sales to representatives of the Government. This was similar to the decree of the State of Durango prohibiting the sale of hides and skins to any corporation or individual other than a representative of the Government. In view of this decree contracted cotton seed was not delivered to its former purchasers, but sold to the de facto authorities and exported by them through the port of Piedras Negras to the United States. So extensive have been the shipments for this year that several American companies are maintaining a corps of classifiers and purchasing agents at Eagle Pass.

This Year's Shipments of Cotton Seed and Products.

Shipments of cotton seed invoiced at this consulate from January 1, 1916, to September 20, amounted to 11,792 tons valued at \$330,709 United States currency. Manufactured products from cotton seed invoiced here were 2,207 tons of cottonseed cake valued at \$54,653 and 138,943 gallons of cottonseed oil valued at \$61,890. An increase in these products over all previous years is estimated at approximately 500 per cent. According to authoritative statements of cottonseed dealers, future shipments will be small compared with the past six months, as practically all seed available has been shipped.

FISH LANDED AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries announces that the fishing fleet landing fishery products at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during the month of August, 1916, included 286 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston 371 trips aggregating 11,402,298 pounds of fish, valued at \$487,116; at Gloucester, 181 trips aggregating 8,339,163 pounds, valued at \$330,181; and at Portland, 148 trips amounting to 1,215,450 pounds, valued at \$30,624. The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 700 trips, aggregating 20,956,911 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$847,921.

PHYSICAL REEXAMINATIONS FOR LICENSES ALLOWED.

The Steamboat-Inspection Service, in conjunction with the Public Health Service, has issued instructions to supervising and local inspectors of the Steamboat-Inspection Service that in case an applicant for license as an officer in the deck department of vessels has been rejected for visual defects, or an applicant for certificate of service as able seaman has been rejected for visual or other physical defects, and any such applicant desires to be reexamined by surgeons of the Public Health Service, he may have that privilege upon request to the local inspectors to whom he made application for license or certificate.

The reexamination will be made by a board of surgeons of the Public Health Service at one of the following-named stations:

Baltimore, Md.	Remington and Wyman Avenues.
Boston, Mass.	High Street, Chelsea, Mass.
Buffalo, N. Y.	Main and Robie Streets.
Chicago, Ill.	4141 Clarendon Avenue.
Cleveland, Ohio.	Lake and Erie Streets.
Detroit, Mich.	Jefferson and Mount Elliott Avenues.
Evansville, Ind.	Head of Illinois Street.
Key West, Fla.	Front and Emma Streets.
Louisville, Ky.	Portland Avenue and Twenty-second Street.
Memphis, Tenn.	Armstrong Avenue and Coffee Street.
Mobile, Ala.	St. Anthony and Bayou Streets.
New York, N. Y.	Bay Street and Marine Avenue, Stapleton.
New Orleans, La.	Tchoupitoulas and Henry Clay Streets.
Portland, Me.	Foreside Road, East Deering.
Pittsburgh, Pa.	Penn Avenue and Fortieth Street.
Port Townsend, Wash.	Franklin and Quincy Streets.
St. Louis, Mo.	Marine Avenue and Winnebago Street.
Savannah, Ga.	York and Abercorn Streets.
San Francisco, Cal.	Lake Street and Fourteenth Avenue.
Philadelphia, Pa.	410 Chestnut Street.
Galveston, Tex.	Rooms 710-714, American National Insurance Building.
Los Angeles, Cal.	543 Wilcox Building.
Norfolk, Va.	Customhouse.
Charleston, S. C.	Customhouse.
Seattle, Wash.	416 Central Building.
Washington, D. C.	3 B Street SE.

AMERICAN TABLE SALT IN CANADA.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 8.]

American table salt has recently been introduced on the local market through the efforts of the Kingston consulate. One firm has already imported three carloads, two of which were sent to Ottawa and Smiths Falls, and is negotiating with Montreal importers for the sale of 40 cars. The war having removed European salt from the Canadian market, the only competitors of American salt works are the manufacturers in and around Sarnia, and their prices, I am told, are identical with the American.

The table salt imported into Kingston is brought over in small cotton bags. The duty on the salt is 7.5 cents per 100 pounds, with a war tax of 7.5 per cent; and on the cotton bags, 25 per cent ad valorem, with an additional charge of 7.5 per cent for war tax.

[The addresses of six Kingston firms interested in American salt and desirous of establishing more connections may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 80414.]

MARKET FOR TINNED PROVISIONS IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, Aug. 10.]

There is in the Singapore consular district, as elsewhere in the Far East, a large demand for canned provisions and fruits of all kinds. One well-known American firm is already in the market, and from information obtained it would appear that considerable business is being done. A growing demand is appearing among the Chinese and natives for canned fish, especially salmon. The Government statistics indicate that approximately \$5,700,000 worth of dry and salted fish were imported into the Straits Settlements during 1915. These figures are given merely as an indication of the consumption of fish, the demand for canned fish being of course only a small proportion of the total, due to the higher prices that place such goods beyond the reach of the lower classes.

Demand for Canned Milk—Preserved Fruits.

A representative of an American importing and exporting concern passed through Singapore recently, looking into the possibilities for the sale of American canned milk. He reports a demand for canned milk in excess of the present supply, and states that it is his opinion that an excellent business in milk could be done if there were any certainty of prompt delivery of stock. The total imports of canned milk into the Straits Settlements during 1915 were valued at \$2,660,538, United States currency, as compared with \$3,140,517 for 1914, of which only \$6,840 worth was imported from the United States for 1915 and \$963 worth for 1914. There appears to be a good opportunity for the sale of American milk, if shipping facilities are available, on account of shortage of supplies from Europe, and that there should be an excellent field for development of this trade after the war on a competitive basis, the foreign demand for American milk in various parts of the world indicating that the product is in favor with foreign consumers.

There is a fair market here for dried and preserved fruits, the imports for 1914 and 1915 amounting to \$540,480 and \$676,760, respectively, of which only \$21,721 and \$23,155 worth came from the United States. However, the Government statistics show \$180,280 and \$237,780 imported from Hongkong, of which no doubt a considerable quantity originated in the United States, being transshipped or resold in Hongkong from supplies from the Pacific coast.

SURPLUS STOCKS OF CANADIAN GRAIN.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Sept. 27.]

I am informed by the Canadian Census and Statistics Office that the surpluses of wheat, barley, and oats in farmers' hands on August 31, 1916, were: Wheat, 11,997,500 bushels; barley, 1,779,430 bushels; oats, 39,584,300 bushels. Adding these quantities to the totals in the elevators on September 1, the Census and Statistics Office arrives at an estimated carry-over from the crops of 1915-16 into the crop year 1916-17 of 27,033,000 bushels of wheat, 2,999,000 bushels of barley, and 50,605,000 bushels of oats.

[The preliminary official estimate of the yield of the principal grain crops of Canada in 1915-16 appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 2, 1916.]

PEANUT INDUSTRY OF SHANTUNG PROVINCE.

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China, Aug. 18.]

There follows a condensed translation of a report prepared by the Japanese Military Administration at Tsingtau regarding the exportation of peanuts from Shantung Province, China:

The sowing season for peanuts in Shantung is in May and June and the harvest season is in October and November, hence the busiest time in the peanut export trade is from October on.

It is estimated that the Province produces about 500,000,000 pounds of peanuts per annum, and that it exports about 266,000,000 pounds of shelled and unshelled nuts. In 1903 and 1904 the total exportation of peanuts through the port of Tsingtau was about 2,500,000 pounds, but by 1912 it exceeded 100,000,000. While this tremendous increase was partly due to the growth of Tsingtau as a port, it was also caused by the discovery of the possible utilization of peanut oil in manufacturing soap as a substitute for olive oil and for various culinary purposes, and of the nut itself, after baking, as a substitute for coffee and for mixing with chocolate and cocoa and as an ingredient in biscuit making. Hitherto some 60 per cent of the total export has gone to Europe, mainly to Germany and France, and 40 per cent to Shanghai and Hongkong.

The shipments of peanuts from Tsingtau dwindled so during the first eight months of 1915 that only about 8,000,000 pounds were exported, of which 234,000 pounds went to South China and the remainder to Japan. All of these shipments were made by Chinese dealers, except 228,000 pounds, shipped by a Japanese firm. This decrease was caused partly by a diversion of the trade to other ports, due to local complications.

Packing and Grading—Oil and Cake.

While certain localities are recognized as producing a better grade of nut than others, quality is said to be determined by reference to the shape, the shell, and the size of the kernel. In the better quality the thin interior peel is pinkish; in the inferior it is yellowish.

Peanuts are generally packed in gunny bags. One bag contains 80 pounds of unshelled nuts or 160 pounds of shelled nuts. As shelled nuts are heavier than unshelled thicker bags are used for packing them, and generally the bags in which shelled nuts are packed are marked with a blue stripe. Freight is charged by weight in the case of shelled nuts and volume in unshelled. In packing, peanuts are classified into "native quality" and "selected quality;" the former consists of 60 per cent of first and 40 per cent of second quality nuts, and the latter wholly of the better-grade nuts. Peanuts are often shelled by hand in the interior during the winter months, labor under these circumstances costing about 6 cents a day.

Peanut oil is considered a staple product of the Province of Shantung and is said to be exported through Tsingtau to the extent of about 40,000,000 pounds annually. It is ground in the interior and brought to the port in waterproofed baskets containing 160 pounds each. Its value locally is $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 cents gold per pound. It is shipped mainly to Shanghai, Canton, and Hongkong, where a portion of it is repacked in kerosene tins and sent abroad. This trade locally is almost entirely in the hands of Chinese. Peanut cake (pressed refuse after making oil) is used mainly for feeding domestic animals and costs locally about 2 cents gold a pound.

Declared Exports to United States.

In 1913 Tsingtau exported more peanuts than any other Chinese port, its share being 44 per cent of the total. The same is true of peanut oil, its share being 43 per cent.

The shipments of peanuts from Tsingtau to the United States in 1913 amounted to 6,720 pounds, the declared value of which was \$214; in 1914 they totaled 907,224 pounds, valued at \$36,691. Of shelled peanuts the United States took from Tsingtau 384,800 pounds, valued at \$15,570, in 1913, and 683,993 pounds, valued at \$111,207, in 1914. There were no shipments of either shelled or unshelled nuts from this port to the United States in 1915.

HEATING OF PASSENGER CARS IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Sept. 4.]

By a decree of August 21, 1916, the Argentine Government has made the heating of passenger cars compulsory during the winter months. At present trains are not heated. During the last two years Argentina has experienced abnormally cold winters and the traveling public has been subjected to great discomfort. The decree states that the Direction General of Railways will, after an agreement with the several companies, fix dates for the presentation of plans and the installation of heating appliances.

The following railways have main offices for Argentina in this district: *Compañía Francesa de los Ferrocarriles de la Provincia de Santa Fé*, Santa Fé (Directorate: *Compagnie Française des Chemins-de-fer de la Province de Santa Fé*, 66, rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, Paris); *Ferrocarril de Rosario á Puerto Belgrano*, Rosario (Directorate: *Compagnie du Chemin-de-fer de Rosario á Puerto Belgrano*, 22, rue Caumartin, Paris); *Ferrocarril Nord Este Argentino*, Concordia, Entre Rios (Directorate: *Argentine North Eastern Rly. Co.*, 54-56 Palmerston House, Old Broad St., London); *Ferrocarriles de Entre Rios*, Concordia, Entre Rios (Directorate: *Entre Rios Railways Co.*, 3 St. Helens Place, London, E. C.). In addition, the following companies operate entirely or largely in this district, but have main offices for Argentina in Buenos Aires: *Ferrocarril Argentino del Norte* and *Ferrocarril Central Norte*, State lines administered by the *Dirección General de Ferrocarriles*, Buenos Aires; *Ferrocarril Central Argentino*; *Ferrocarril Central Córdoba*; *Ferrocarril de Buenos Aires al Pacífico*.

In the case of foreign companies, the European directorates generally control important purchases, although the Argentine offices make recommendations.

BRITISH COMPANIES ESTABLISH ELECTRODE PLANT.

[Consul John M. Savage, Sheffield, Aug. 31.]

The recent installation of a number of electric furnaces in Sheffield has led to an increased demand for electrodes. Prior to the war the electrodes used in this country were bought principally in the United States, although some came from the Continent. The entire supply now comes from the United States, except those used by one firm, which manufactures only for its own requirements.

The Electrode Co. of Sheffield (Ltd.) has been organized with a capital of £50,000 (\$243,325) for the manufacture of carbon electrodes, and a plant is being built which it is expected will be in operation within the next three months.

The promoters of this company and the majority holders of the stock are four large Sheffield manufacturing firms, which have installed or have in process of installation 23 electric furnaces, with a total capacity of 90½ tons. The new company will have an output of from 3,000 to 5,000 tons of carbon electrodes per annum. The primary object is to furnish the promoters with an adequate supply of electrodes for their own furnaces, although any surplus manufactured will undoubtedly be put upon the market.

CANADIAN WRITERS ON CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 21.]

The Weekly Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce of September 18, 1916, contains articles written on conditions in Cuba for the benefit of exporters of goods to that island. Some of the interesting points developed by these writers follow:

The total foreign trade of Cuba for 1915 was \$409,740,000, including exports worth \$254,292,000 and imports worth \$155,448,000, or a total increase in the two items of 27½ per cent over 1914.

Of the import trade, the United States supplied about two-thirds of the value, while Canada's share was very small—\$1,123,336, or less than 1 per cent. The sale of Canadian products in Cuba during 1915 was restricted in great part by lack of shipping facilities, as well as the prohibition against exporting from Canada of many articles when destined to neutral countries.

Items of imports of Canadian goods in Cuba which the latter country purchased for the first time in considerable quantities in 1915 from the Dominion were: Jewelry, salts, maps and lithographs, coaches and accessories, and barley. Those imports from Canada having the greatest value in the 1915 trade were codfish, potatoes, and lumber, in the order named, the first item showing an increase over that of 1914 amounting to about 10 per cent. Canadian food products are apparently, with the exception of lumber, the only exports likely to be of importance in the near future in the Cuban trade.

Hog Raising.

The subject of hog raising in Cuba is treated by New Brunswick's special representative in that island as follows:

Although in Canada and other northern countries it is generally believed that tropical countries confine food consumption to fruit, rice, etc., for their principal subsistence, Cuba at least consumes large quantities of meat and other heavy foods, about \$25,000,000 worth of meat being consumed yearly, of which about half is pork, the island producing annually pork worth about \$9,000,000, and the remaining \$3,500,000 coming chiefly from the United States. Cuba should easily produce all pork required for home consumption, as extensive pastures, plenty of fresh water, and abundance of wild-grown foods the year round are all favorable factors existing there.

"Native hogs in Cuba remain in pasture the year round, and their food is palmito, or berry of the royal palm, fruit of the mango, and the guava. All of these trees grow abundantly in all parts of Cuba. They also eat the roots of the yuca, and many other wild plants. Hogs grow and thrive on this food until a few weeks before they are killed, when they are fed extra rations, consisting of cow beans, sweet potatoes, and corn, all of which yield heavy crops on Cuban soil." Very little Canadian meat is sold in Cuba.

American Hogs Imported for Breeding.

The Cuban hog is full in head and legs, with a lank body. It is hardy, requires little care, and is rarely subject to disease. Hogs are now being imported from the United States for breeding purposes, and the resulting cross-breed with the native hog produces an animal with improved form and greater weight than the native hog.

The Government is trying to increase domestic production of pork in various ways: Importation of good breeds, special instruction through lectures and pamphlets, and experimenting in cross-breeding of imported Berkshires, Cheshires, and Poland-Chinas with the native stock.

At present there is no Cuban pork put up in the form of ham or bacon, but an establishment with this purpose in view is contemplated near Habana, to supply local demand for domestic ham and bacon.

The mineralogists of the United States Geological Survey are constantly discovering new minerals. Several are described in Bulletin 610 of the Survey, published for free distribution to applicants to the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. A new crystal form of the mineral variscite, which is used as a gem, is among those described in Bulletin 610 and is called lucinite, a new name.

TRADE IN SOUTH AFRICAN BOXWOOD REVIVED.

[Vice Consul Fayette J. Flexer, Port Elizabeth, Aug. 12.]

The revival of trade in South African boxwood after many years of inactivity is attributed to the war. Hitherto the European market has drawn its supplies from the forests of Turkey, Asia Minor, and the shores of the Black Sea. Previous to 1914 the annual shipments from Constantinople were from 5,000 to 7,000 tons.

The Government forests in the Alexandria district comprise an area of 2,177 acres located on the coastal belt between Sunday's and Bushman's Rivers. According to the statement of the district forester, this tract will furnish 50,000 cubic feet of sound boxwood of 4 inches or more diameter. The percentage of bark to wood is 14.5, and the weight of the green wood per cubic foot is 79 pounds. The average length of the boles is 5 feet 4 inches, and the average diameter 5.7 inches.

Shipments to London Find Ready Markets.

In addition to the Government forest, a company has purchased the timber rights of several privately owned forests, and has engaged a force of 100 men for cutting operations. Several sample consignments of 25 tons each have been sent to London, and have found ready markets at prices varying from \$46.25 to \$68.15 per ton. The Colonial boxwood, known here as *Buxus macowanii*, is said by British manufacturers to be equal to the Turkish and Persian varieties (*Buxus balearica* and *B. Sempervirens*). The wood possesses a delicate yellow color, is very dense in structure, and has a fine uniform grain which gives it a unique value for the purposes of the wood engraver. In addition to the ever-increasing engravers' demand for boxwood, a large quantity is used in the manufacture of measuring rules, mathematical instruments, flutes, and other musical instruments, for inlaying, and for small carvings.

American manufacturers who have been dependent on Turkish supplies should take advantage of these sources in the South African forests. Samples may be obtained from South African firms. Steamship freights to America are \$18.25 per long ton.

[A list of suppliers of boxwood in South Africa may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80364. An article on South African lumber was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 27, 1916.]

PACKING GOODS FOR COSTA RICA.

[Vice Consul Albert B. Pullen, Port Limon, Sept. 5.]

Practically all shipments of dry goods, shirts, notions, etc., to the Port Limon district are packed in bales. The goods are wrapped in paper, in oilcloth, and the entire bale is covered with burlap. Shoes, collars, and cuffs come in cartons, and are packed in the same manner as above.

The writer is informed by the leading importers of this city that shipments packed in this manner usually come in good condition and perfectly dry.

Care should be taken to make packages as light as possible, as duty is charged on the gross weight.

AMERICAN CAPITAL IN NORWEGIAN POWER DEVELOPMENT.

[Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, Stavanger, Sept. 7.]

American capital is employed in building a factory for the production of calcium carbide at Saude in the district of Stavanger, where there are falls suitable for the generation of large amounts of electrical power. Other electrochemical products are to be turned out by this factory for shipment to New York and sale in the American market. First shipments should be ready early in 1918, as the contract calls for the finishing of the plant by January 1 of that year. The new company is registered in Canada, and is called the Electric Furnace Products Co. (Ltd.). Edgar F. Price, an officer of the Union Carbide Co., of New York, is president of the organization.

The power for the factory is to be supplied by "Saudefaldene" (The Saude Falls Co.), a Norwegian corporation financed by Norwegian capital. A lease of 40 to 50 years for the use of the power has been taken from this corporation by the Canadian company, and the Norwegian corporation already has more than 250 men at work.

Three Sources for Power to be Used.

There are three sources for the power now to be used, each of which will come from a 1,000-foot head. In all they will generate a total of 40,000 horsepower. Later the tail-water will be carried in a tunnel cut of nearly 5 miles through the mountains to a place where it will fall into the salt water of the fjord. This will generate another 40,000 or 45,000 horsepower. Although this end of the fjord is about 70 miles from the sea, the water is so deep that large ocean steamers can come direct to the company's docks and take the goods for shipment to the United States. The new factory is being built at the edge of the fjord, and docks and barracks have already been constructed.

In having hydroelectric power so readily available at the sea-coast, Norway has an advantage over most other countries, where such development must usually be inland. Several similar plants are now being erected on Norway's western and southern coasts to make use of this natural advantage. The Saude plant will be one of the largest in Norway.

Norwegian Materials and Workmen Wherever Possible.

To lease its power from Saudefaldene, the Canadian factory had to secure a concession from the Norwegian Government under the terms of which all materials possible for building and operation shall be purchased in Norway, and Norwegian citizens are to be employed whenever they are available. Such articles as rails, locomotives, cars, cranes, and steel work for buildings which can not be obtained in Norway are being ordered in the United States by the company's agents there.

There is at present probably a greater scarcity of labor in Stavanger than in the United States. Wages have risen considerably since the beginning of the war, and it is thought that the price of labor here to-day comes to about what it does in America, all things considered.

To provide for the new employees and laborers the Canadian company erected barracks and workmen's dwellings. The barracks are under control of the Norwegian Government which requires that certain conveniences and comforts be provided laborers brought in by contractors. Separate dwellings will later be erected for the permanent employees, and plans have been laid out for a small town.

Site Selected for New Settlement.

A site for the new settlement has been made available in the valley at the end of the fjord near the factory. This valley is about 1½ miles wide and runs about 10 miles into the mountains. Agriculturally and scenically it is one of the finest in western Norway. Streets and a village green have been laid out covering from 120 to 200 acres overlooking the fjord. Provision will be made for 250 families. There is already a small farming settlement in the neighborhood and the new town will be under the same municipal administration. Arrangements are being controlled by a regulation committee from the present town. The timber and other material for the new buildings will be purchased so far as possible in Norway.

A staff of Norwegian engineers and officials has been engaged to carry on the company's work. To assist in the erection of the plant, however, two engineers and a few experts in the equipment of carbide works and the manufacture of the product have come from the States and are temporarily located at Saude.

The activities of Saudefaldene, the Norwegian organization, and of the Electric Furnace Products Co. (Ltd.) together have attracted considerable attention to Saude, and as a result land values have risen there. Saude is already known as a tourists' resort and a place for such winter sports as skiing. A large up-to-date hotel was opened last year.

ROUMANIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

[L'Économiste Européen, Sept. 15.]

According to the *Curierul Financiar*, of Bucharest, the textile industry would have every chance of making progress in Roumania, if the raw materials that are produced there, such as wool, flax, and hemp, were cultivated more intensively and then were systematically employed in the textile industry.

At the end of 1915 this industry included 23 enterprises enjoying the benefits of the law for the encouragement of industry and representing a fixed capital of \$1,273,719. The raw material utilized in 1912-13 amounted to \$1,094,080, of which only \$124,398 represented domestic products, the remainder, mostly cotton, having been imported. The value of products of the textile industry in the same year was \$1,940,660. The total number of employees was 1,708.

First Forecast of India's New Sesame Crop.

The first official forecast of India's sesame (til or gingeli) area for the season 1916-17, based on reports received from eight provinces, which contain, on an average, 78 per cent of the entire area under sesame in British India, places the total at 1,819,000 acres, as against 1,776,000 acres (revised figure) for the same tracts at the corresponding date last year.

GOLD DISCOVERY IN TASMANIA.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Aug. 16.]

Gold-bearing ore, estimated at about 500,000 tons, has been discovered at Specimen Reef, 26 miles from Waratah, Tasmania. A Government assay showed a yield of 6 ounces 14 pennyweight of gold, and 10 ounces 3 pennyweight of silver per ton. The belief that the ore would not prove in general so rich as this, was confirmed by subsequent assays.

Three men from Hobart and a mining prospector of the northern coast, who made the discovery, have staked out four claims of 50 acres each. Additional claims are being taken, and there are prospects of considerable mining activity in this field.

The gold-bearing reef, so far as has been ascertained to date, is 66 chains long (chain=66 feet), 9 to 21 feet wide, and in places has a depth of 150 feet, though surveys are far from complete. Considerable alluvial gold has been recovered in this section in the past, and there is sufficient evidence to indicate that this is a very valuable field.

Demand for Mining Machinery Expected.

As more definite steps are taken in the development of this field, there will arise a demand for machinery and rolling stock, but no negotiations along these lines have been opened yet. Until proposals are at hand in regard to such supplies, communication may be opened by firms supplying gold-mining machinery with the owners of the claims or with some of the local dealers in mining machinery, who will probably supply most of the machinery needed.

The Daily Post of Hobart, in its issue of August 16, 1916, describes the conditions under which the discovery of the gold was made, and also gives some facts regarding the investigations that have been conducted. It stated in part:

The results of the assays taken from the surface of the gold reef recently discovered at Long Plains, 26 miles west of Waratah, have been received by the members of the syndicate. One of these men said that he was pleased with the result from the samples assayed, which averaged 1½ ounces to the ton. The samples were taken from six different points, spread over 46 chains, on the surface of the reef, and as they were taken by members of the syndicate, who are not mining men, the results may be considered satisfactory.

Another member of the syndicate, who has had experience on the Lefroy gold fields, expressed himself as satisfied with the result of 1½ ounces to the ton. He stated that the samples had been taken haphazard from the outcrop. If they got ½ ounce to the ton he would consider the crushing of the quartz from the surface portion of the reef a paying proposition.

The discovery has created intense interest, not only in Tasmania, but on the mainland.

Government Report on Earlier Study of Field.

The Government geologist (Mr. W. H. Twelvetees) discussed the general geology of this and contiguous districts in reports issued in 1900, in one of which he dealt with the geological conditions at Long Plains. The newspaper mentioned, in quoting him, stated:

The Long Plains form the high table-land between the Whyte River on the east and the Savage River on the west, both of which have cut deep channels—sometimes stupendous gorges—in the country in their southwesterly flow to the River Pieaman. The plateau is, on the whole, tolerably level, although in places gently undulating, and has a general height of 1,100 to

1,200 feet above sea level. The plain itself, where traversed by the track from Waratah to Corinna, is grassy and treeless, timber being found only where creeks seam the country; but east of the Whyte the Meredith range is closely timbered, and the country between the western edge of the plain and the Savage River is also wooded. A superficial layer of detrital quartz, from 1 to 5 feet in thickness, rests upon the edges of the country rock, which latter consists of laminated sandstones and quartz schists. In places these detrital stones cohere rather firmly, forming what is locally called cement. The formation is, however, strictly one of quartz, sand, and pebbles, and is not cemented by any secondary siliceous deposit. The stones are angular, and waterworn pebbles are not common among them.

Zone from Which Gold Has Been Largely Obtained.

The Golden Ridge belt, as defined by the creek channels on each side, is about a quarter of a mile wide. It may possibly extend 10 chains farther west to Main Creek, in the latitude of the Reward sections. In any case, this zone has furnished the gold for which the locality is famous.

Main Creek and all its affluents have carried gold. Smith's Creek was the richest on the field; though according to Messrs. Weetman and Crockford the heaviest gold was got at Gray's, namely, one nugget of 5 ounces.

The gold found in the creeks is, of course, waterworn, but that found in the angular quartz drift on the hillsides, as well as that occurring in softened stones of the schist, is ragged, spongy, and semicrystalline, showing all the signs of precipitation from secondary solution. Some of the gold in the drift on the hill has been deposited by surface precipitation; some of it, no doubt, has been liberated from the schist in its present form. The nuggets and patches met with underground may be described as due to the circulation of waters carrying gold in the solution into zones of rock favorable for its precipitation.

Gold Discoveries of Score of Years Ago.

At 24 miles from Waratah and 16 from Corinna is the Bullock's Head, the remnant of a bovine cranium on a stake, which has been a familiar landmark for the last 20 years. It marks the turnoff to Gill's gold sections, and formerly to the Specimen Reef. The Long Plain extends here eastward for half a mile over rolling country, and then connects by a saddle with the Golden Ridge (Gill's), a spur which extends for a mile in a direction bearing a few degrees east of north. This is the ridge upon which Weetman and Crockford made their gold discoveries 20 years ago. It runs through the gold sections for upward of 50 chains, terminating north at Riley's Creek and south at Cox's Face. The rocks are thinly bedded or cleaved quartz, micaceous, talcose, and graphitic schists, slates, and crystalline sandstone, striking a little east of north, and dipping at very high angles a little south of east. They are here also covered with a layer of angular stones of quartz, derived from the underlying bedrock. The creeks on the west foot of the ridge are Gray's and Little Duffer Creeks; on the east side is Jarman's Creek.

The report stated that the absence of quartz reefs had always puzzled prospectors, and although much quartz occurred in the form of laminae, veinlets, and irregular bunches, it did not appear to be the source of the gold. The occurrence of auriferous pyrites pointed, it claimed, to pyritic veins being the original carriers of the gold.

[The names of the men who staked out the original claims at the reef of gold-bearing ore and a list of dealers in mining machinery at Hobart may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80376.]

Automobiles in a Canadian County.

Consul E. Verne Richardson reports from Moncton, New Brunswick, under date of September 15, that 351 automobiles had been registered in Westmoreland County, New Brunswick, since January 1, 1916. Of these, 197 are owned and principally operated in the city of Moncton.

PORTO RICO PRODUCES ITS BIGGEST SUGAR CROP.

[Harwood Hull, correspondent, San Juan, Sept. 27.]

Figures just compiled by the Bureau of Property Taxes of the Insular Treasury Department show that the sugar production from the 1916 cane crop was 483,589.68 short tons. This is the largest output ever recorded for Porto Rico, an increase of 137,099.25 tons over the crop year 1915. Practically all of it has been marketed at a price that sugar men say will average 5½ cents per pound. On this basis the crop was worth in excess of \$53,000,000.

There were 65 sugar centrals grinding during the 1916 season, according to the report, and of these 15 produced more than 10,000 tons each, 19 had an output of from 5,000 to 10,000 tons, 6 ranged in production from 1,000 to 5,000 tons, and 25 mills produced less than 1,000 tons each. The mills having the greatest output, together with their production, were:

Mills.	Location.	Output.	Mills.	Location.	Output.
		Tons.			Tons.
Guanica Centrale Co.....	Guanica	75,557	Plazuela Sugar Co.....	Barceloneta...	18,819
Central Aguirre Co.....	Aguirre	39,530	Lóiza Sugar Co.....	Lóiza	16,313
The Fajardo Sugar Co.....	Fajardo.....	36,338	Yabucoa Sugar Co.....	Yabucoa.....	15,887
Central Cambalache Co.....	Arecibo.....	23,443	The Juncos Central Co.....	Juncos.....	15,454

The records of the island's sugar production from the cane crops of the past eight years are:

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1909.....	277,092	1912.....	371,075	1915.....	346,490
1910.....	346,785	1913.....	398,003	1916.....	483,589
1911.....	349,840	1914.....	351,665		

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....		1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T. ^a	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Porto Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Cium, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E. ^b	Georgetown, Guiana.....		
Spahr, Herman L. ^c	Montevideo, Uruguay.....		C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

^a Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

^b Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

^c Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3644.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 19, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock, at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel, planished iron, drill rods, vanadium-steel tires, bolster guides, steel cable, barbed wire, electric cable, rivets, bolts, nuts, washers, screws, stovepipe, bronze bars, motor-driven centrifugal pumps, switchboard, water-level indicator, cargo winches, drills, dies, bits, oil hose, oars, lampblack, liquid chlorine, loose-leaf binders, board clips, record books, paper, and lumber. (Circular No. 1086.)

Signal Corps supplies, No. 3645.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 24, 1916, for furnishing phosphor-bronze wire, rubber-covered copper wire, wire fixture, cable, etc. (Proposal No. 865.)

Post-office construction, No. 3646.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 10, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Wenatchee, Wash. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Wenatchee, Wash., or at the above-named office.

Drag-line excavators, No. 3647.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Reclamation Service, Denver, Colo., until October 16, for furnishing drag-line excavators. Further information may be obtained at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Denver, Colo.

Medical supplies, etc., No. 3648.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 5, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., flexible catheters, rubber gloves, rectum lavage tubes, perforated drainage tubes, white enamel paint, 54-inch wide burlap, fine excelsior, fine packing hay, coils of box strapping, hammers, nails, rivets, etc. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Band-saw machine, No. 3649.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, D. C., until October 12, 1916, for a motor-driven band-saw machine. Specifications and full details will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

Rockets and shells, No. 3650.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 21, 1916, for furnishing yellow-smoke rockets, sequence rockets, red shells, white shells, and amber-smoke shells. Specifications will be furnished on application to the above-named officer. (Proposal No. 864.)

Riprap, No. 3651.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., for furnishing and placing riprap for Panrappo Light, Newark Bay, N. J. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3652.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, equipment for hydroelectric station, including penstock, water turbine-driven exciter, power transformers, induction motor-driven pumps, and traveling crane. (Circular No. 1085.)

Wire, No. 3653.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 11, 1916, for furnishing counterpoise wire, silicon bronze wire, phosphor bronze antenna wire, and braided antenna cord. (Proposal No. 863.)

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Drugs and medical supplies, No. 22604.—The Bureau is informed that a possible opportunity exists in Peru for the sale of American drugs, chemicals, and medical supplies.

Machinery and wire, No. 22605.—A company in the United States transmits to the Bureau the name and address of its agent in Greece who desires to purchase machinery for the manufacture of wire nails. Proposals on wire for this purpose are also desired. Further information may be secured from, and samples of the nails to be produced may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 153.)

General representation, No. 22606.—An established commission house in Brazil desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters in Southern Brazil. No particular line is specified. References.

Ice-making machine, No. 22607.—A business man in Venezuela informs an American consular officer of his desire to purchase an ice-making machine. Catalogues should be in Spanish.

Typewriters, sewing machines, etc., No. 22608.—A merchant in Spain, with branch houses in Paris and Manila, informs an American consular officer that he is desirous of importing from the United States wholesale quantities of a typewriter costing less than the standard make machine. He is also in the market for sewing machines and cash registers. Correspondence in English. References.

Sporting ammunition, etc., No. 22609.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a firm in his district desires to purchase in the United States ammunition for sporting purposes, ball and shotgun shells, revolvers, etc. Correspondence in Dutch or French.

Machinery, No. 22610.—An American consular officer in a foreign insular possession reports that prices and estimates are desired for a small tomato-paste factory. It is desired that the plans range from the smallest unit up to a moderate-sized outfit for this class of manufacturing. Terms, cash against shipping documents at port of destination.

Agricultural implements, etc., No. 22611.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that an established commission agent in his district would like to hear from American firms interested in exporting on a commission basis agricultural implements, binder twine, motor cars and accessories, office furniture, firearms and ammunition, paints and varnishes, gasoline, cement, shoes, carriages, chairs, typewriters, etc. Communication with importers and others in the United States interested in the purchase of hides and skins, wool, bristles, and feathers is also desired. Correspondence in Spanish.

Stamping device, No. 22612.—A manufacturer of gold watchcases in Switzerland informs an American consular officer of his desire to secure quotations, catalogues, etc., on a machine suitable for numbering watchcases. Correspondence in French. Reference.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PRINCETON

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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ADDITIONAL BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 4.]

A proclamation of October 3 provides that from and after that date the importation into the United Kingdom of the following goods is prohibited: Aluminum powder; birds, live, other than poultry and game; bone; horn; ivory and celluloid; and manufactures of cotton hosiery. The same proclamation removes oranges from the list of prohibited imports (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 2, 1916). The prohibition applicable to hosiery is the result of an active campaign of a protectionist character.

AMERICANS IN ARGENTINA ADOPT TRADE CONDITIONS.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 28.]

The United States Exporters' Association, which was formed some weeks ago in Buenos Aires, for the purpose of closer cooperation and self-protection among the local representatives here of export and commission houses in the United States, invited the American consul general and the commercial attaché of the American Embassy to attend one of its initial meetings. During the session, interesting general conditions were adopted in connection with orders taken for goods to be shipped from the United States to Argentina.

In the case of orders based upon c. i. f. quotations, the price includes the cost of the merchandise placed on board ship at port of embarkation, the freight, marine insurance, and other petty charges up to port of destination. The obligation of the shipper as regards delivery ceases once the merchandise is shipped. The goods travel for account and risk of the buyer, and the shipper assumes no responsibility for their arrival at port of destination, or for any damage sustained on the voyage or during unloading.

The clauses of the bills of lading and policies of insurance covering the goods detailed on the ticket are incorporated in the conditions of the transaction and form a part of the order.

Causes Beyond the Control of the Shipper.

The shipper is not responsible in any case of force majeure; and without prejudice to the general nature of the stipulation, he is

especially exempt from responsibility in cases of strikes, floods, fires, accidents, delays, or other difficulties in land or sea transport, or in the case of interruption of such transport services by acts of Governments or other competent authorities, or for postponement in sailings of ships and any other causes beyond the control of the shipper.

In case of war and during the duration of war the shipper shall insure the merchandise shipped by him against all war risks, without being required to consult the purchaser, to whose account the cost of such insurance shall be charged. War-risk premiums shall in no case be included in the prices, and shall be shown separately as extras in the invoice.

[A report on the formation of the United States Exporters' Association in Buenos Aires was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 28, 1916.]

CANADIAN PROVISION FOR FARM INSTRUCTION.

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Sept. 21.]

The agricultural instruction act of Canada went into effect in 1913 and each of the nine Provinces received appropriations for instruction and demonstration work. The amount appropriated for British Columbia for the fiscal year of 1916-17 is \$63,732, of which \$15,000 is to be applied toward inspectors, instructors, directors, superintendents, and district representatives; \$20,000 to farm demonstration, field and crop competitions, clubs, stock competitions, and poultry-demonstration stations; \$7,000 to horticultural stations, vegetable and greenhouse work, pathological and entomological investigation, and various practices in fruits and vegetables; \$5,000 to journals, reports, circulars, and other publications; \$15,000 toward agricultural instruction in public, normal, and high schools, and \$1,732 to contingencies.

The appropriations for the nine Provinces and veterinary college since the inauguration of the plan have been:

Divisions.	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
Prince Edward Island.....	\$36,529	\$27,832	\$29,138	\$30,443
Nova Scotia.....	54,288	61,144	68,001	74,889
New Brunswick.....	44,509	49,407	54,308	59,209
Quebec.....	159,482	187,409	215,310	243,212
Ontario.....	195,733	230,868	266,013	301,158
Manitoba.....	51,730	58,075	64,421	70,767
Saskatchewan.....	54,296	61,152	68,011	74,869
Alberta.....	46,094	51,310	58,528	61,747
British Columbia.....	47,334	52,799	58,265	63,732
Veterinary college.....	20,005	20,001	20,005	20,004
Total.....	700,000	800,000	900,000	1,000,000

BRAZILIAN IMPORTS OF COAL DURING JULY.

Imports of American coal at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for July, 1916, amounted to 39,549 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each, compared with 79,063 tons during the corresponding month of 1915, Consul General Gottschalk reports. Receipts of British coal during the same period were 5,075 tons compared with 16,687 last year. Total imports of coal for July were 44,624 tons compared with 94,751 tons in July, 1915.

CUBA TO HAVE ENVELOPE FACTORY.

[Special Agent Robert S. Barrett.]

The National Envelope Co. (Fabrica Nacional de Sobres, S. A.) has been organized in Habana for the purpose of manufacturing envelopes, and it is expected that the factory will be in operation in three months. The incorporation papers were signed on September 21, 1916. The initial order for machinery has been placed with a New York firm whose Habana representative is the organizer of the new company. It will be the first envelope factory to be established in Cuba.

Three envelope machines will be used in the beginning, and baronial, commercial, and legal size envelopes will be manufactured. Later it is expected to add other machines, and it is probable that the company will also undertake the manufacture of blank books. There is a large demand in Cuba for baronial envelopes, especially of the larger sizes and in colors. This class of envelopes was formerly imported from Germany, but since the European war there have been none on the market and business houses have been compelled to use the American style envelope. The general impression seems to prevail among printers and stationers that the public will go back to the baronial sizes when these are again obtainable.

The new company will have a tariff advantage on its wares of more than 4 cents per pound over foreign competition. Under the present law envelopes from the United States pay a duty of \$9.10 per 100 kilos, or \$4.13 per 100 pounds, and the rate on envelopes imported from all other countries is considerably higher.

AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES ON SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS.

[Vice Consul Fayette J. Flexer, Port Elizabeth, Aug. 28.]

Railway materials for Government use were, previous to the outbreak of war in Europe, admitted into the Union of South Africa, duty free. By an act of Parliament, all tenders were considered on a basis of 25 per cent preference for goods of British manufacture. This act practically amounted to an exclusion of all but British-made supplies, and it is remarkable that American manufacturers, under these conditions, were able to compete at all.

Late in 1914, railway officials found themselves unable to cope with the exceptionally heavy traffic, or to obtain the new rolling stock required to relieve the congestion from the former sources of British supply. The 25 per cent preference was temporarily abolished, and several contracts were immediately placed in America.

The first of these, an order for 12 narrow-gauge locomotives for use on the Port Elizabeth-Humansdorp railway, was delivered in June, two months before the contracted delivery. The new locomotives are of the type known as 2-6-0, and are the heaviest and most powerful locomotives of their gauge in South Africa. They were erected at the Uitenhage shops, under the personal supervision of an American expert. This order has, in every respect, proved successful.

TRADE FOR AUGUST BY COUNTRIES AND ARTICLES.

The total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during August and the eight months ended with August, 1916, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have just been made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of August—		8 months ended with August—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$53,710,620	\$38,142,368	\$442,509,158	\$351,309,547
North America.....	54,817,920	46,104,723	458,064,019	554,397,501
South America.....	31,537,098	22,280,972	286,660,531	199,449,175
Asia.....	52,341,480	31,438,884	353,720,184	184,017,908
Oceania.....	5,830,545	22,440,359	74,395,561	38,662,981
Africa.....	1,098,554	1,396,896	51,776,344	22,941,588
Total.....	199,336,223	141,804,202	1,667,155,797	1,150,858,700
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	18,818	113,061	515,026	4,540,168
Belgium.....	90,768	76,368	854,817	1,771,434
France.....	10,061,333	7,538,826	75,832,497	46,994,257
Germany.....	82,579	725,244	4,896,031	36,819,943
Italy.....	3,908,533	2,694,413	42,632,606	34,498,134
Netherlands.....	4,594,015	1,831,813	30,440,952	17,271,961
Norway.....	484,789	659,771	4,056,327	4,617,563
Russia in Europe.....	1,703,710	440,124	3,558,389	912,373
Spain.....	2,300,036	1,225,091	21,081,434	10,659,283
Sweden.....	1,888,934	1,158,911	8,977,117	7,604,829
Switzerland.....	2,643,780	1,695,854	15,381,518	12,390,799
United Kingdom.....	24,596,556	18,535,932	219,115,921	161,737,702
Canada.....	21,444,212	15,853,723	138,144,495	101,390,062
Mexico.....	9,030,436	8,638,923	70,299,231	58,846,452
Cuba.....	17,738,141	17,411,854	193,652,650	150,175,825
Argentina.....	9,693,144	6,214,692	84,456,720	61,253,309
Brazil.....	6,856,027	5,998,404	79,807,977	66,557,308
Chile.....	5,660,225	4,354,180	56,394,589	24,831,285
China.....	7,507,091	4,515,138	56,367,492	32,320,621
British East Indies.....	18,471,183	13,867,745	143,943,961	73,786,021
Japan.....	19,912,111	10,653,178	114,770,886	62,752,966
Australia and New Zealand.....	1,265,887	1,262,804	50,751,549	23,996,247
Philippine Islands.....	4,297,893	1,069,616	21,442,510	13,501,593
Egypt.....	316,353	837,432	26,284,075	14,006,864
EXPORTS TO—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	359,074,955	172,072,656	2,379,410,916	1,633,637,964
North America.....	84,890,960	52,094,052	567,588,768	336,116,133
South America.....	21,662,528	13,436,547	139,630,127	86,554,482
Asia.....	27,137,188	10,269,258	247,485,393	90,247,819
Oceania.....	12,278,520	9,272,088	70,743,676	62,000,726
Africa.....	4,860,338	3,465,394	31,110,332	22,330,078
Total.....	509,894,479	260,609,995	3,435,969,212	2,230,887,202
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....		6,098	68,385	43,334
Belgium.....	4,158,040	1,490,829	16,255,570	14,057,335
Denmark.....	5,569,778	3,476,703	36,436,534	52,802,832
France.....	72,176,007	28,549,417	544,475,088	332,978,137
Germany.....		38,743	1,118,233	11,688,510
Greece.....	2,733,685	2,336,462	23,597,141	19,239,193
Italy.....	32,882,484	15,510,031	170,394,823	150,149,604
Netherlands.....	11,824,319	6,746,673	72,784,972	108,704,111
Norway.....	6,420,118	1,618,085	42,152,668	27,839,781
Russia in Europe.....	51,265,433	10,385,636	176,045,337	59,812,201
Spain.....	3,676,284	2,442,543	37,002,902	28,442,650
Sweden.....	3,750,382	4,256,197	26,597,374	61,701,464
United Kingdom.....	159,437,554	93,190,955	1,207,751,939	753,470,395
Canada.....	56,881,773	34,766,912	373,736,599	209,189,107
Central America.....	3,631,293	2,942,613	28,873,614	23,452,244
Mexico.....	3,848,042	3,598,677	31,874,039	25,196,177
Cuba.....	15,625,687	8,111,511	97,966,466	54,445,495

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of August—		8 months ended with August—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
EXPORTS TO—continued.				
Principal countries—Continued.				
Argentina.....	\$8,264,446	\$4,559,744	\$51,126,793	\$31,126,173
Brazil.....	4,943,670	4,045,379	31,328,473	21,067,408
Chile.....	2,930,566	1,634,067	19,388,050	10,095,846
China.....	3,438,092	1,838,962	20,201,405	13,647,151
British East Indies.....	2,945,141	1,647,507	18,336,850	13,172,537
Japan.....	7,372,559	3,088,881	64,909,761	28,677,607
Russia in Asia.....	10,228,127	2,099,805	124,317,289	21,980,632
Australia and New Zealand.....	9,990,197	6,399,887	55,025,095	41,673,249
Philippine Islands.....	2,193,806	2,735,115	14,707,082	19,557,544
British Africa.....	3,447,556	2,348,528	20,602,091	15,252,610

Trade by Groups of Articles.

The imports and exports by great groups during the month of August and the eight months ended August are presented in the following statement:

Groups.	Month of August—		Eight months ended August—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$82,888,742	\$53,464,950	\$729,519,511	\$435,468,749
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	18,951,863	18,192,354	157,180,745	147,181,187
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	25,946,433	21,729,114	256,134,491	205,441,437
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	37,792,633	23,069,899	295,319,056	163,817,164
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	32,628,991	24,668,236	225,901,145	191,086,827
Miscellaneous.....	1,124,561	679,659	13,070,849	7,863,396
Total imports.....	199,336,223	141,804,202	1,667,155,797	1,150,858,760
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	53,075,256	23,939,920	397,263,175	375,287,254
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	33,796,947	27,700,512	278,860,379	333,546,101
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	49,973,872	40,365,579	425,357,952	360,643,837
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	83,697,489	40,719,189	553,047,096	292,368,666
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	274,554,880	112,771,880	1,706,277,901	745,798,603
Miscellaneous.....	9,750,298	11,212,905	56,626,312	86,060,253
Total domestic exports.....	504,948,742	256,709,785	3,397,432,815	2,193,704,724
Foreign merchandise exported.....	5,045,737	3,900,210	38,536,397	37,182,478
Total exports.....	509,894,479	260,609,995	3,435,969,212	2,230,887,202

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" in August, 1916, were: Horses, \$6,358,946; mules, \$3,308,464; and seeds, \$67,572; and for eight months ended August 31, 1916; Horses, \$39,139,096; mules, \$15,472,949; and seeds, \$1,773,532.

CENSUS OF AMERICAN BLAST FURNACES.

A preliminary statement of the 1914 census of manufactures relating to blast furnaces in the iron and steel industry has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census.

The number of establishments reported was 162; persons engaged in manufacture, 33,194; primary horsepower, 1,222,273; capital, \$462,282,000; payments for services, \$28,895,000; cost of materials, \$264,580,000; value of products, \$317,654,000; and value added by manufacture, \$53,074,000.

FOREIGN TRADE OF ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires.]

Supplementing a report transmitted showing the principal imports into and exports from Argentina, with their value, for the first six months of 1916 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 4, 1916], the following table shows the foreign trade of Argentina by countries for the same period. These statistics appeared in the Review of River Plate, as compiled by the Direccion General de Estadistica de la Nacion. The values are given in Argentine gold pesos (peso= \$0.965).

Country.	Jan.-June (1915).	Jan.-June (1916).	Country.	Jan.-June (1915).	Jan.-June (1916).
IMPORTS FROM—			EXPORTS TO—		
	<i>Gold pesos.</i>	<i>Gold pesos.</i>		<i>Gold pesos.</i>	<i>Gold pesos.</i>
South Africa.....	38,339	8,769	South Africa.....	361,662	123,572
Germany.....	4,520,765	263,538	Australia.....	3,862,499	.....
Austria-Hungary.....	187,261	8,763	Bolivia.....	319,238	476,285
Belgium.....	654,510	138,176	Brazil.....	12,297,576	9,739,493
Bolivia.....	180,225	223,478	Cuba.....	101,077	21,329
Brazil.....	4,836,153	5,300,471	Chile.....	812,532	675,780
Canada.....	274,193	482,668	Denmark.....	790,425	2,628,418
Cuba.....	366,056	482,777	Spain.....	3,998,325	3,599,882
Chile.....	351,012	502,794	United States.....	42,749,667	54,301,477
China.....	133,360	149,813	France.....	25,130,908	27,063,110
Denmark.....	247,269	227,329	Italy.....	30,685,870	11,473,693
Spain.....	5,282,804	6,507,368	Norway.....	1,633,693	2,130,111
United States.....	19,254,297	28,439,679	Netherlands.....	10,309,765	9,662,644
France.....	5,619,479	7,881,456	Paraguay.....	657,745	1,248,896
Greece.....	29,079	5,667	Peru.....	272,355	.....
Italy.....	9,819,201	12,069,321	Portugal.....	711,111	1,290,567
Japan.....	300,472	491,851	French possessions.....	57,103	666,978
Mexico.....	3,648,101	3,123,635	British possessions.....	546,108	302,358
Norway.....	766,757	548,973	United Kingdom.....	92,803,504	73,981,827
Netherlands.....	920,807	980,887	Russia.....	.....	1,375,991
Paraguay.....	975,017	1,141,376	Sweden.....	3,593,140	4,981,270
Portugal.....	108,064	123,472	Uruguay.....	3,446,945	2,437,839
British possessions.....	3,506,773	1,613,996	Other countries.....	1,058,092	316,663
United Kingdom.....	35,519,741	31,225,377	To "Orders".....	94,286,689	37,559,184
Sweden.....	1,013,492	842,716	Total.....	330,485,829	246,057,367
Switzerland.....	614,831	964,748			
Turkey.....	30,012	11,528			
Uruguay.....	873,067	1,168,295			
Other countries.....	36,773	37,711			
Total.....	100,127,910	104,966,451			

It will be observed that the imports into this country from the United States increased over \$9,000,000 during the six months of the current year compared with the same period in 1915, while those from the United Kingdom decreased by over \$4,000,000. The exports to the United States increased by over \$11,000,000, while those to the United Kingdom and Italy, respectively, decreased by about \$19,000,000 each. The large decrease in the heading of exports to "Orders" undoubtedly concerns shipments to the United Kingdom chiefly.

Water and Electric Distribution in Honduras.

An executive decree in Honduras regulates the distribution of water and electric light and power in the municipalities of that country. These services are under the direction of the Department of Fomento, which publishes the regulations in a recent number of its Boletin.

CONCRETE ROADS FOR NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

The New Zealand authorities, both local and national, are carefully studying the subject of good roads, realizing that this is the best way to open up the hinterland of the Dominion. The roads of the country, in the main, are not in very good condition. There are some good stone roads about the larger centers, but few of them extend out more than 25 or 30 miles. Their upkeep has been found very expensive, especially in the northern part of the country, since the rainfall is heavy and washouts are numerous because the stone used is soft and grinds up and decays rapidly.

Of late, much has been said in regard to the construction of concrete highways, and it is thought that this will be far cheaper in the long run than the stone roads as they are now constructed, for the reason that the upkeep will be so very greatly reduced. It is estimated that a mile of 12-foot concrete road 4 inches thick could be built for \$2,000 more than a mile of ordinary stone road, on which there would be a saving in upkeep for the first five years of at least \$1,200, while at the end of ten years there would be a saving of \$7,000 or \$8,000 per mile.

Information as to American Methods and Machinery Desired.

The experiments being carried on in the United States along this line have received much attention here and are being carefully studied, with the result that it is proposed to adopt some of these methods. This will call for the use of up-to-date American road-making machinery, and I would request that the Auckland consulate general be supplied with catalogues, price lists, etc., of this class of machinery, together with such printed matter as may be available for distribution covering the construction, cost, and maintenance of concrete roads. This information can be put in the hands of persons here who are in position to make good use of it. There is one feature in the construction of concrete roads that does not need to be taken into consideration in New Zealand, and that is frost, since there is no frost to speak of in the North Island and but little in the South Island.

A very good grade of cement is manufactured in large quantities in New Zealand, two large cement works having been installed within the last two or three years, supplied principally with up-to-date American machinery, and it is possible to manufacture the cement here at a price much below the cost of imported cement. This domestic cement seems to be good enough for concrete-road building and ordinary structural work.

REVENUE LAWS IN SALVADOR.

A legislative decree governing the collection of public revenues in Salvador appears in the *Diario Oficial* of September 13. This decree also contains complete regulations for the manufacture, sale, importation, and exportation of brandy and other liquors.

JEWELRY MARKETS IN SPAIN AND AUSTRALIA.

[Vice Consul Harris N. Cookingham, Barcelona, Spain, Aug. 16.]

The Barcelona jewelry industry is of importance in spite of the fact that there are no large factories here. Many of the small "talleres" or workshops where gold jewelry is produced date from antiquity. The articles usually manufactured here are chiefly of 18 carats, occasionally of 14 or 16. There is practically no market here for gold jewelry of low carat, which costs almost as much as articles of high carat produced in Spain. The low cost of workmanship on the domestic product and the customs duty on imported goods militate against the sale here of jewelry of foreign manufacture.

Provisions of the Spanish Tariff.

According to the Spanish tariff, by paragraph No. 50, which reads: "Gold and platinum jewelry, with or without pearls or stones, and such precious stones, pearls, and seed pearls, loose or unmounted," an import duty of 25 pesetas per hectogram (about \$1.50 per troy ounce) net weight, is levied upon these articles, except that the "duty on articles the product and origin of the countries designated in Groups I and II" (among which is the United States) is placed at 15 pesetas per hectogram (about \$0.90 per troy ounce) net weight.

By paragraph No. 51, "Silver jewelry, with or without pearls or stones," pays a customs duty of 5 pesetas per hectogram net weight (about \$0.30 per troy ounce).

Under paragraph No. 52, a duty of 3.60 pesetas per hectogram net weight (about \$0.22 per troy ounce) is levied on "gold, silver, and platinum manufactured into other articles, and in semimanufactured jewelry." A note in the Spanish tariff explains that "the term jewelry includes all small articles, whatever their standard of fineness, intended generally for the adornment of the person."

The values of the imports into Spain of jewelry classified under the paragraphs mentioned have been for the past three years, according to official statistics, as follows:

Classification.	1913	1914	1915
By par. 50.....	\$67,680	\$101,991	\$45,922
By par. 51.....	28,314	26,314	23,850
By par. 52.....	67,633	43,707	22,912

Most of this jewelry came from Germany, France, and England.

Provisions of Law—Sale of False Jewelry.

According to Spanish law, it is not permitted that gold jewelry of 9 karats be marked 10 karats, for the "fiel contraste" mark on each piece of gold is proof that the number of karats is correctly specified.

For the sale of false jewelry a somewhat wider market appears to exist in Spain. Gold-filled jewelry, especially chains, which were formerly imported in large quantities from continental countries, are in demand here, for the purchasing public is exceptionally fond of personal adornments like medallions, brooches, fantasy combs, and other similar articles, which are for sale locally in a large number of bazaars and shops. A Barcelona dealer in this kind of jewelry states that probably about \$190,000 worth of chains could be im-

ported into Spain yearly. The kind most used is of copper, gold filled.

[Lists of dealers in fine jewelry and of dealers in false jewelry at Barcelona, Spain, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80326.]

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Aug. 10.]

Conditions in Australian Market.

Large quantities of the gold jewelry used in Sydney are manufactured in Australia. The United States stamping laws would not apply on jewelry used in this country, as the English hall mark is the standard here. The duty on imported jewelry, such as unset bracelets, brooches, necklets, rings, and other articles prepared for setting, or such articles set with imitation precious stones and jewelry commonly known as rolled gold, also jewelry under 9 carats, is 45 per cent ad valorem. On imports from the United Kingdom there is a preferential tariff of 35 per cent ad valorem.

Most of the jewelry that is imported comes from the United Kingdom and very little is imported from the United States.

[The name of a Sydney firm, which may be addressed by American exporters of jewelry, is on file at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80699b.]

NORWEGIAN CROP REPORT.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Sept. 1.]

In the districts south of Trondhjem the hay crop, with but few exceptions, has been above an average year. The quality has been very good, as the harvesting was effected under favorable weather conditions. In the Romsdal district hay is reported to have been damaged through rain. Around Trondhjem the crop was about the average, with generally good quality; in north Norway it has been unsatisfactory; around Tromsø it is stated to be 30 to 40 per cent below average, with somewhat better results in Finnmarken.

Rye has been cut in nearly all localities but is not yet in the barns. In the southern part, and in those districts of the western part and around Trondhjem where rye is grown, the crop has been comparatively good, but in the eastern part, where rye is the main crop, the result is a good deal below average.

The yields of barley and oats will generally be average ones in the east and south; in the western part and around Trondhjem appearances indicate a crop above average; in north Norway the prospects are unfavorable.

In the western part of the country and around Trondhjem potatoes and turnips look well, and the yield there will probably be plentiful; for the rest of the country the crops will likely be under average. Indications are that the crop of peas will be an average one in those districts where the cultivation is carried on on a large scale. Other vegetables are in good condition, and the harvest will be a good one, except in the eastern part, where dry weather has unfavorably affected the result.

The fruit crop will be small in quantity and poor in quality on account of the ravages of insects, which seem particularly to have attacked the apples. The berry crop will be fully an average one.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**CANADA.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Sept. 9.]

New School Building in Moncton.

There has just been completed in this city a modern three-story brick and stone structure known as the Aberdeen School, which has been designed to accommodate the High School and portions of the intermediate and primary divisions. The work has been carried out by local contractors at a cost approximating \$100,000, the time consumed in construction being just over 12 months.

The building itself is about 60 feet in height. Each room is well lighted, with groups of three windows in each class room and two singles, making five in all. The windows in the corner rooms are so located that the light only comes from one side, thus avoiding cross lights. The roof is of "hopper" type and grades to the center, disposing of the rain water, through central conduits running down inside the building. The roof is of Sparham, believed to be the most suitable for all conditions of weather and especially in case of fire.

Entrance and Exit Facilities.

Longitudinally in the building there are two brick walls, running from end to end, one each side of the corridor, which serve to add strength. There are three main entrances, one in the center through the portico, and one on each side. There are two exits from the large basement and three flights of stairs leading to all the floors, one in the center and one at each end. These flights ascend to the top floor, making it possible to empty the building in less than two minutes.

Twenty class rooms of an average dimension of 29 by 24 feet have been provided and in these it is intended to accommodate 1,000 scholars.

The building is wired for electric lighting throughout. It is also wired for an intercommunicating telephone service, electric gongs, and calls. Fire fighting equipment is on every floor. The basement contains many rooms, including indoor playgrounds for stormy weather, lavatories, and a shooting gallery 80 feet long by 5 feet wide. There are also lavatories on the third floor for teachers and scholars. There are sanitary drinking fountains in each corridor.

CUBA.

[Consul R. M. Bartleman, Cienfuegos, Sept. 15.]

Through the recent sale and reorganization now in process of the Cienfuegos, Palmira and Cruces Electric Railway and Power Co., of this city, the writer is informed that there is every prospect of the extension of the line in operation from the present terminal in Caunao to Cruces, a distance of 24 kilometers (15 miles). For the prosecution of the work the contractor is now in the market for railway construction material as follows: A. S. C. E. 70-pound rail and corresponding accessories, electrical and shop machinery, oil-driven engines, and other material relative to railway construction, maintenance, and operation.

The above company has for the past $3\frac{1}{4}$ years been operating approximately 10 kilometers of single standard-gauge track with the storage-battery system, which, the present general manager states, will be retained until such time as may become available power generated at the water site, where a large power plant is to be erected.

There is also under consideration, the manager further stated, the extension of lines into at least one, possibly two, districts of the city at present without service.

[The name and address of the contractor referred to can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80408.]

PANAMA.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Sept. 12.]

Improvements in Colon-Cristobal.

A good many improvements of various kinds are being made in Colon-Cristobal. This office has reported the completion within a short time of the Colon Hospital, which is under the management of the Panama Canal authorities [see COMMERCE REPORTS for May 10, 1916]; the beginning of the reinforced concrete school building for the children of Panama Canal employees [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 23, 1916]; and the letting of the contract by the city of Colon for a new municipal building [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 24, 1916]. In Colon also a concrete building is under construction for the accommodation of the hospital staff and employees; in Cristobal concrete buildings are nearly completed for Panama Canal offices and for the American Bible Society, and a large concrete hotel building for canal employees is well under way. A new pier will soon be ready to aid in accommodating the increasing shipping of the port of Cristobal.

Use of Reclaimed Land for Building Purposes.

A large undertaking has been begun in Colon. The Panama Railroad Co., which owns almost all the land on which this city is built, has some 300 acres of unoccupied land which was reclaimed from swamp four years ago by means of suction dredges. An area of nearly 20 acres of this land is being filled in to a sufficient depth to make it suitable for residential purposes. The earth for filling in the land, between 90,000 and 100,000 cubic yards, is brought by rail from the vicinity of Mount Hope, 2 miles south of the city, and the temporary tracks are moved along as the grading proceeds. Plans have already been made by the building division of the Panama Canal to erect early next year on this land 19 frame buildings intended for four families each and 25 houses for one family each, thus providing accommodations for 100 families of Panama Canal employees. Most of these families will be moved from Cristobal, where it is desirable to make room for buildings needed for various purposes.

At present there is only one highway leading out of Colon, that to Gatun, 7 miles south of the city. Another road, 16 feet wide, has just been graded on the east side of Folks River between Mount Hope and Fort Randolph at Margarita Point. This road, which is about 6 miles long, will be macadamized during the next dry season.

LIVE STOCK AND MEAT INDUSTRY IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 31.]

According to the report of the Director of the Live Stock Division of the Department of Agriculture, Industries, and Commerce of New Zealand, the stock-raising interests of the country enjoyed a prosperous year during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916.

Tuberculosis among cattle seems to be the most serious disease that the New Zealand authorities have to contend with and this really does not seem to be serious for the reason that the percentage is low and is being carefully watched, as indicated by the following table giving the number of cattle examined during the years mentioned, which covers the fiscal year ended March 31:

Years.	Number of cattle examined.	Number found affected in any degree.	Percentage found tubercular.
1913-14	207,381	15,182	7.00
1914-15	283,217	18,750	6.62
1915-16	308,306	22,202	7.20

Animals Slaughtered.

The slaughterhouse inspection system in New Zealand is quite thorough, and all stock slaughtered, even in the smaller places, is supposed to be inspected, and is, so far as inspectors can be supplied. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, there were 308,305 cattle, 33,770 calves, 3,731,643 sheep, 4,065,100 lambs, and 169,715 hogs inspected at time of slaughter in this Dominion. This shows an increase in all lines with the exception of lambs, which decreased 307,781 carcasses over 1915. In addition to the above, 32,684 hogs were killed and dressed by farmers under the exemption clause of the act.

CONDITIONS IN SICILIAN NUT TRADE.

[Consul Samuel H. Shank, Palermo, Italy, Aug. 30.]

Last year's crop of almonds was about one-fourth of a normal yield, consequently there are practically no 1915 nuts left. The new crop appears very good, and prospects are that there will be a production of 350,000 bags of 220 pounds each. Prices are weak and there is little speculation. Quotations for September and October shipments are 100 to 115 shillings (\$24.35 to \$28) per hundred-weight of 112 pounds, f. o. b. Sicilian ports.

The stock of last year's filberts has been sold out. Estimates for this year's production are 100,000 bags of 220 pounds. Speculation has been rife and prices have attained a height that it will not be possible to maintain unless the demand from the United States and other consuming countries should become more active. Germany formerly consumed one-half of the crop, and now that this market is closed other outlets must be found. Prices quoted for October delivery, f. o. b. Sicilian ports, are 88 shillings per 220 pounds (\$9.70 per 100 pounds).

The pistachio crop is a poor one. No estimate can be given. Prices quoted are 2 shillings 9 pence (\$0.67) per pound for the 1915 crop and 3 shillings 4 pence (\$0.81) for nuts of the 1916 crop, f. o. b. Sicilian ports.

SWISS MARKET AND PRODUCTION OF AMMUNITION.

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Aug. 18.]

The rifle ammunition most widely used in Switzerland is the so-called war ammunition, manufactured by the Federal Ammunition Factories at Thun, Canton of Berne, and Altorf, Canton of Uri. The cartridges are similar to the Remington and Mauser 7-millimeter products, with rounded "patched" bullets or with pointed bullets. The Swiss ordnance rifle has a 7.5-millimeter caliber. No other ordnance ammunition than that manufactured in the Swiss Government factories is permitted to be used in the official military rifles.

Swiss War Ammunition Used Exclusively in Competitions.

For private rifles, the so-called "stutzers," the war ammunition, is almost exclusively used because the caliber of the barrel and the cartridge chamber are especially made to fit this product. At all shooting competitions held in Switzerland, whether Federal, cantonal, or municipal, the Swiss war ammunition is exclusively used, no other makes being permitted. The principal reason for this is that the target fields correspond with the degree of precision of the ammunition and of the weapons. Both kinds of cartridges, with rounded and pointed bullets, are still used, but the latter have the advantage of possessing a greater precision.

The ammunition for the ordnance pistol and revolver is also manufactured by the Government, and the use of or practice with any other make is strictly forbidden. For hunting purposes, however, some ammunition is imported into Switzerland. Before the war this came chiefly from Germany, because experiments have been made in that country, in order to comply in every respect with the requirements here. The ammunition factories there operate on a very large scale, and were in a position to sell their product on this market at comparatively low prices. Swiss hunters as a rule are very conservative in the selection of their ammunition, and when they have tried out a certain brand with satisfactory results it is difficult to induce them to try another brand.

Special Shops Designated by Government.

For the sale of Swiss ordnance ammunition for rifles, pistols, and revolvers, special shops are designated by the Government. In the cities and larger towns there are always several such shops. The importation and sale of any other kinds of ammunition are in no way restricted.

The Swiss ordnance rifle cartridges are sold at 50 centimes (9.7 cents) per 10 cartridges, but the actual cost of production to the Federal Government is said to be 11 centimes (2.1 cents) per cartridge. Pistol cartridges are sold at 96 centimes (18½ cents) a box, containing 24 cartridges. The cost of producing these is not exactly known, but it is said to be somewhat higher than the selling price. The stated reasons for selling ammunition not only without profit but even under the actual cost of production are:

1. To encourage and promote the practice of shooting in the country.
2. To use up and replace continuously the stocks of war ammunition and thus avoid their becoming useless as a result of long storage.

Consumption by Troops Small in Times of Peace.

In times of peace the consumption of ammunition by the troops is small compared with that of the numerous Swiss shooting societies, and it takes about six years in Switzerland to use up completely the old stock of rifle ammunition. In other countries, where the practice of shooting is not so highly developed or exercised to such a great extent, it takes 10 years and more to consume the entire stocks. This, of course, is to the great advantage of Switzerland, inasmuch as the war stocks in this country are thus always of more recent manufacture. The storage difficulty can not, however, be entirely overcome, because each State must have, in case of war, a fairly large reserve of ammunition for the first few months.

The Swiss import duty for ammunition is 50 francs (\$9.65) per 100 kilos (220 pounds) and is figured on the gross weight, including all packing material.

So far as this consulate general has been able to ascertain, there are no Federal laws restricting in any way the sale of ammunition, other than the ordnance ammunition mentioned, which is manufactured by the factories of the Federal Government. Everybody has the right to sell all other ammunition, but it is understood that some restrictions are placed on the sale of powder.

Imports of Ammunition of All Kinds.

The imports of ammunition of all kinds by countries during 1913 and 1914 were:

Countries.	1913	1914	Countries.	1913	1914
Germany.....	\$32,193	\$15,826	Belgium.....	\$2,084	\$1,158
United States.....	2,470	1,467	France.....	1,158	772
Italy.....	154	1,467	United Kingdom.....	1,081	605

In the statistics for 1915 that have thus far been published there is no indication that any ammunition has been imported during that period.

The Federal Government itself imports ammunition only in case the home production is not sufficient. This, however, applies only to artillery ammunition, such as grenades, shrapnel, etc. For the ordnance rifles, revolvers, and pistols there has been no need of imports. The Swiss factories are capable of meeting the requirements of the country. Ammunition is imported chiefly by dealers in firearms.

Shooting Societies Receive Annual Subsidies.

The Swiss shooting societies buy all their ammunition from the Federal ammunition depot, and they are not allowed to use any other brand than that manufactured in the Federal ammunition factories at Thun and Altorf. In case any society should decide to use another brand the Federal Government would immediately withdraw its annual subsidy by means of which these societies are supported.

For hunting purposes shot shells are used exclusively, as there is no big game in this country. The game consists chiefly of hares, foxes, deer, chamois, etc., as well as wild ducks and partridges.

The American ammunition seen here is principally for Browning pistols and Flobert rifles.

Cartridges for the Swiss market are put up in light cardboard boxes, containing 10, 12, and 24 cartridges each, and these are placed in heavy wooden cases for shipment.

[Lists of arms factories and dealers in firearms in Switzerland may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80260.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon.	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.	Havre, France.	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland. .	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.	Bristol, England. ....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Chum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana. ....	.....
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay. ....	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

* Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

* Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

* Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

BRANCH HOUSES AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES.

The American commercial attaché in London desires to receive the addresses of branch houses and general agents of American business concerns in England. Companies with branch houses and general agents abroad—in other countries as well as England—are invited to notify the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C., of their addresses, in order that the commercial attachés may more fully assist them.

Many American houses have found it advantageous to instruct their branch managers and other foreign representatives to call on the commercial attachés and to keep in close touch with them.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau and its district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

- Catalogues, samples, etc.**, No. 22613.—An American consular officer in Japan writes that catalogues of goods, price lists, and samples are desired for the use of a newly established sample room of a commercial museum in his district. A monthly trade journal in English is now being published by the museum. Where practicable samples should be forwarded by parcel post.
- Machinery**, No. 22614.—An American consular officer in France reports that a merchant in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of unthreading machines for cotton and woolen materials. Correspondence and printed matter should be in French and measurements, etc., stated in the metric system.
- Machinery**, No. 22615.—An American consular officer in Central America reports a possible demand for a small plant for the reduction of beef into beef extract, fats, and by-products. Correspondence in English.
- Paper**, No. 22616.—A firm in northern Italy advises an American consular officer that it is in the market for printing and lithographic paper. Correspondence may be in English. Payment will be made against documents in New York. References.
- Machinery**, No. 22617.—An American consular officer in Australia transmits the name and address of a clothing manufacturer who wishes to enter into communication with American manufacturers of machinery for making trouser buckles, suspender and garter clips, button molds, and other articles pertaining to wearing apparel for men and women. A complete list of the machines desired may be obtained from, and samples of buttons and button molds, etc., to be produced, may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. Reference.
- Agricultural implements**, No. 22618.—A man in the Philippines asks the Bureau to send him a list of the names of manufacturers of agricultural implements, especially of plows.
- Machinery**, No. 22619.—The Bureau is in receipt of an inquiry from Canada for the names and addresses of firms manufacturing machinery for making paper bags.
- Barium sulphate**, No. 22620.—A business man in Spain desires to enter into commercial relations with importers and others in the United States interested in the purchase of "baritina," an analysis of which shows 98.96 per cent of barium sulphate, containing 33.97 per cent sulphuric acid and 64.99 per cent of oxide of barium.
- Colored tissue paper**, No. 22621.—A paper company in the United States writes the Bureau that its agents in South America are in the market for large quantities of tissue paper in all colors, including white, to be packed 24 sheets to the quire and 20 quires to the ream. A sample of the tissue paper may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 154.)

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

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No. 236 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 7 1916

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RESTRICTIONS ON GRASS SEEDS FOR NORWAY.

[Cablegram from American consulate general, London, Oct. 6.]

The British authorities announce that no further authorizations will be issued for the exportation of grass seeds to Norway, and of asbestos to Sweden until further notice. [It is assumed that letters of assurance for such shipments will likewise be withheld for the present.]

FRENCH EXPORT EMBARGOES.

[Cablegram from the American consulate general, Paris, Oct. 5.]

A decree of October 3 prohibits the export transit, etc., from October 6, of silk in cocoons or raw or thrown, and dyed or thrown and dyed silk; floss silk and byssus; floss and coarse silk thread; sewing, embroidery, passementery, cords, and other silk thread; artificial silk thread stock; silk or floss fabrics, pure or mixed, and all artificial silk fabrics. The decree is subject to the usual exceptions.

AMENDMENT TO BRITISH CONTRABAND LIST.

A proclamation of October 3, reported by the American consul general at London, states:

"The following articles will be treated as absolute contraband in addition to those set out in our royal proclamations: Insulating materials, raw and manufactured; fatty acids; cadmium, cadmium alloys, and cadmium ore; albumen. And we do hereby further declare that as from this date the following amendments shall be made in schedule I of our royal proclamation of the 14th day of October, 1915: For item 6, 'paraffin wax,' there shall be substituted 'waxes of all kinds.' And we do hereby further declare that the following article shall be treated as conditional contraband: Yeast."

[Schedule I contains the list of absolute contraband. The Foreign Office has stated, however, as noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for April 24, that in actual practice no distinction between absolute and conditional contraband is recognized.]

MARKET FOR FILING CABINETS IN WEST AFRICA.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Aug. 22.]

There are no firms in West Africa, so far as this consulate has been able to learn, who are engaged in selling filing devices or cabinets, or any office supplies other than those for desk use. But any one of the large firms in the commercial centers, especially the port towns, could serve well as agent for such goods, if induced to keep samples on hand. In the opinion of the consulate, considerable business could be done in this line after the close of the European war; but until that time little, if anything, will be done in the way of improving office conveniences. Before the war there was a fairly large demand for office furnishings by both the commercial people and the different departments of the colonial governments.

Method of Getting West African Trade.

American exporters interested in selling to West African buyers should send circulars and price lists to at least two or three of the most important firms in each of the principal seaport towns. Those in the French colonies should be addressed in the French language. The government authorities can be reached by addressing the Director of Public Works, or the Colonial Secretary, the name of the colony following. These officials, as a rule, either make purchases or recommend them.

To reach the proper officials in the French colonies, address all communications in the French language to *Le Secrétaire Général du Gouvernement du Sénégal*. For each of the French colonies the name of the colony should come last, as Senegal above, the name of the post office in the colony not being necessary. In each case the official addressed should be requested to refer the communication to the proper department.

Steel furniture would suit West Africa best, on account of the climate—the long dry and wet seasons. The climate is very hard on wood furniture, especially when it is veneered or is not made of heavy materials. Steel cabinets, however, rust quickly when the enamel is broken.

If manufacturers desire to advertise in West African journals, they would do well to address the following:

L'A. O. F., Dakar, Senegal; daily except Sunday. Communications should be in the French language. This paper is read by most of the French in West Africa.

The *Sierre Leone Weekly News*, Freetown, Sierra Leone; read by many Europeans and most educated natives in the British West African colonies.

Argentine Electric Lamp Co.

A recently organized company is initiating the manufacture of electric lamps in Argentina, according to a notice in the *Revista de Economía y Finanzas* of September 2. This company, which operates under the name of *La Compañía Argentina de Lámparas Eléctricas Z*, has imported machinery and apparatus for its plant, and expects to be able to offer the public in October the first electric lamps of Argentine manufacture.

PRODUCTION OF EDIBLE BEANS IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul General P. S. Heintzleman, Mukden, China, Aug. 22.]

The nonedible, oil-producing soya bean is the principal bean of commerce and export in the Mukden consular district, and is produced in large quantities. Edible beans are produced for home consumption. However, in normal crop years a surplus of edible beans is usually available for export after the home demand has been supplied. Reports indicate that this year's crop will be normal.

The principal edible beans are "hsiao-tou" and "lu-tou." The former consists of three varieties—red, which is considered of an excellent quality; white, which compares with the American navy bean; and one of mixed colors, red, white, black, and marble. The lu-tou, a green bean, is used principally in the manufacture of vermicelli and starch. The quantity of edible beans available for export from this district in the past few years has been roughly from 7,000 to 10,000 tons per year. The hsiao-tou is exported chiefly to Japan, while the lu-tou is exported to China proper.

The present market prices of these beans are: Hsiao-tou, white, 2.2 cents gold per pound; red, 1.4 cents; mixed, 1.5 cents; lu-tou, 1.4 cents. No attention is given to the sorting and grading of these beans. After scraping them up from the thrashing floor the farmer separates them from pods and dust by tossing them into the air, after which they are packed in bags of about 133 pounds each.

Most of the beans from this district are collected at and exported from Dairen. The railway freight rates on beans, per ton, in car-load lots, to Dairen and Newchwang from the principal shipping points are: From Changchun, \$4.14 gold per ton, 436 miles; Kungchuling, \$3.99 gold, 398 miles; Ssuping kai, \$3.64 gold, 365 miles; Kaiyuan, \$2.84 gold, 312 miles; Tiehling, \$2.49 gold, 292 miles; Mukden, \$1.99 gold, 248 miles.

[A list of exporters in the Mukden consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80778.]

CANADIANS PREPARED TO BUY AMERICAN HARMONICAS.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Sept. 28.]

Three different importers at Kingston have asked the American consulate to draw the attention of American manufacturers to the opportunity now existing here for the sale of harmonicas.

Prior to the European war these mouth organs were imported exclusively from Europe. Dealers are now compelled to look elsewhere for their Christmas stocks. The firms mentioned are prepared to give large orders. One dealer said: "I have only one harmonica in stock, and if I can not purchase these goods in your country I don't know what I shall do." With the introduction of this line of goods on the Kingston market other Christmas articles of a similar nature may follow.

There is a splendid opportunity for American manufacturers to sell goods of all kinds in Canada. With the American trade once firmly established, it would, I believe, be held for years to come.

[A list of importers of harmonicas at Kingston may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80702.]

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**BOLIVIA.**

[American Minister John D. O'Rear, La Paz, Aug. 25.]

New Electric Railway.

The Congress of Bolivia authorized in 1915 the construction of the La Paz-Yungas electric railway, which will run through the fertile district of Yungas in the Department of La Paz, and it is generally believed this will be the best-paying line in Bolivia when finished. An expenditure of \$2,400,000 was authorized, the funds to be provided by the departmental treasury, or a bond issue, guaranteed by the Government, to be issued by the prefecture of La Paz, the interest and amortization to be met by the tax on cocoa leaves, which is estimated as more than sufficient to attend to this obligation.

The Government placed the Bureau of Public Works in charge of the construction, and work was immediately begun with the accumulated tax collections of last year, the line having been surveyed and earthworks constructed to kilometer 27, which is at the top of the highest mountain to be crossed.

The revenues of the Department of La Paz designated for the interest and amortization of the loan are as follows: (a) The savings of the departmental treasury of La Paz during the year 1915; (b) the general revenue of the Department of La Paz, and specially the reimbursement corresponding to the revenue on the additional cocoa-leaf taxes; (c) the branch railway possessed by the Government between the Arica-La Paz Railway and the Corocoro mining district; (d) the nation's revenues from railway concessions in force.

Besides the above, the line whose construction is authorized is also given as a guaranty. It is exempt from duties on the imports of materials required for the completion of the road and in the exploitation of the new line. A zone privilege is also granted the railway for a limited number of years.

CANADA.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Sept. 15.]

River Improvement at New Brunswick Ports.

It is expected that the Dominion Department of Public Works will soon begin the dredging of the Oromocto shoals. When this is done to a 15-foot depth it is said that a 15-foot channel will exist in the St. John River from Fredericton to the city of St. John. As the building of the Government railway progresses it is likely that those interested in river traffic on the St. John will realize the need of all possible improvement in the channel, for the completion of the railway will give additional communication along the river.

A dredging company of Boston is completing a contract for dredging the St. Croix River between the towns of Calais, Me., and St. Stephen. The work will make more accessible the various lumber, coal, and passenger wharves of the two towns.

SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 17.]

Construction of Bridges, Railways, etc.

The Siamese budget estimates for the fiscal year 1916-17 provide \$148,000 for the construction of bridges and roads in the Provinces,

the intentions being to facilitate a freer movement of merchandise within the Kingdom, and to increase the traffic for goods and passengers on the new railways.

For the maintenance of existing waterways, including destruction of the "Java weed" the sum of \$296,000 has been set aside.

The amount allotted by Siam's budget for the construction of the southern railway extension for the current year is \$2,326,930, a reduction of \$625,670, as compared with the grant for last year, the reduction being mainly due to the fact that nearly all the requirements for rails and steelwork for bridges have been completed, but the allotment for the branch lines of this railway, however, shows an advance of \$217,190 over last year, or a total of \$254,190. The branch lines were nearly completed last year, but were seriously damaged, owing to heavy floods during the latter months of the year, and hence the increased appropriation, which also includes the first grant of about \$148,000 for the construction of a new terminus for the southern line which is estimated to cost about \$370,000.

For the northern railway extension the sum of \$1,332,000 is allocated, and for the completion of the new royal audience hall the sum of \$129,500 has been set aside.

Appropriations for Irrigation Purposes.

The total provision for irrigation purposes during the current year amounts to \$1,291,844, \$736,844 more than last year. This is an initial appropriation for the "Prasak" irrigation scheme for the estimated cost of which \$4,403,000 has been sanctioned, while a more extensive system of irrigation, involving an outlay within six years of about \$9,000,000, still remains under consideration.

[See COMMERCE REPORTS for July 19, 1915, and Feb. 14 and Sept. 21, 1916.]

LIMITED USE OF COWPEAS IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 5.]

Cowpeas are not cultivated in Argentina for forage purposes, and for human consumption they are unknown. During the agricultural season of 1911-12, the Argentine Department of Agriculture, at its experimental station in Cordoba, made several experiments with the cowpea which proved amply satisfactory, although the plant was found to be very sensitive to frost and hail. It was also learned that individual agriculturists had imported small lots of 50 to 100 pounds of cowpea seeds for experimental planting, but aside from these few individual cases there is practically no cultivation of the cowpea to-day.

Another experiment made by the Cordoba Experimental Station proved that, where cattle were given the run of an alfalfa and a cowpea field they would disregard the cowpea field entirely, preferring to graze on the alfalfa. Where cowpeas and no other forage was fed, the cowpeas remained untouched.

From the experiments made and according to the Department of Agriculture here, it is not believed that in the near future any particular attention will be given to the cultivation of cowpeas, and in view of the abundance of native forage for live stock, the demand for cowpeas, aside from the small quantities used for seed purposes, will be small.

GRAPE INDUSTRY AND GRAPE PESTS IN CANTON ZURICH.

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Switzerland, Aug. 22.]

According to a report recently published by the Economics Director of Canton Zurich the total number of owners of vineyards within the Canton declined from 21,628 in 1881 to 14,581 in 1910 and 11,775 in 1914, while during the same period the total acreage decreased from 1,380,396 to 799,571 to 600,642, and the total commercial value of the crop fell from \$9,541,534 to \$3,661,780 and \$2,630,218, respectively. This represents a diminution since 1881 of 56 per cent in the acreage and a loss of 72 per cent in the value of the crop.

The decreased production in this Canton, as well as in other parts of Switzerland, is understood to be due (1) to the ravages of the grape louse (*Phylloxera vastatrix*), grape mildew (*Uncenula spiralvis*), and other grape pests during the dry years, and (2) to the hail damages, etc., during the wet years. To combat the grape louse, experiments have been made in various parts of the Republic with the hardier American grape stocks upon which there have been grafted vines of the local varieties. Such improved American vines have been furnished for official experimental purposes as well as to the grape growers themselves by the Swiss Experiment Station for Fruit, Grape, and Garden Cultivation in Wädenswill, Canton Zurich.

American Vine Stocks Give Best Results.

With reference to the experiments in this Canton, the report of the Economics Director states that, although the improved American vines also suffered during the rainy years of 1913 and 1914, they nevertheless recovered very well during the better grape year of 1915, and on the whole they thrived and developed better in both dry and wet seasons than the native vines. A record has also been kept of the yield in grapes and wine of the different experimental vineyards, and tests have been made in the chemical department of the Experiment Station at Wädenswil to determine the acid content of the wine.

These records and tests indicate that in quality the yield of the improved American vines was not inferior to that of the native vines, but allowance must be made for the fact that, in case of a heavy yield of grapes, the yield of the wine is always comparatively shorter. The average grape yield per American stock when grafted with the native Räuschling variety was 3 kilos (6.6 pounds), and when grafted with the Burgunder variety the average was 2 kilos (4.4 pounds). It has therefore been recommended that improved American vines be planted not only in places where the grape vines had formerly been pulled up, because the vineyards were infested by the grape louse, but also in all new plantings in general. Experiments are now also being made at the Experiment Station at Wädenswil with improved American stocks in vineyards which have been infected with grape mildew.

Successful Use of Petroleum as Insecticide.

Because of difficulty in importing carbon disulphide experiments were made during the year of 1915 for the extermination of the

grape louse in infested stocks by more thoroughly sprinkling the ground with petroleum the first of the season and once or twice later. Subsequent investigation showed that to a depth of 20 centimeters (8 inches) no living grape louse could be found, and the surface spreading of the same seems also to have been prevented. It is, however, presumed that during a season of greater moisture this method would not have proven so successful.

The more thorough sprinkling with petroleum did not kill any of the vines, although it did in some instances seem to check their growth. For fear that the grapes of the vines so treated might have an unpleasant petroleum taste they were gathered early, but the composition of the wine when tested at the Experiment Station at Wadenswil was proven to be normal, and the presence of petroleum could also not be detected by the taste.

REDUCED SHIPMENTS OF COTTONSEED OIL TO ITALY.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Sept. 5.]

Official statistics published by the Italian Government show no imports of cotton seed. There is a fabrication tax amounting to \$27.02 per metric ton (2,204.6 pounds) upon the production of cottonseed oil in Italy. There is also an import duty on cotton seed of \$9.65 per metric ton. The result is that it is not found profitable to have the cotton seed crushed in Italy, although cottonseed oil pays a customs duty of \$46.32 per metric ton and has to pay as well the fabrication tax of \$27.02 imposed upon domestic production.

Sesame seed and peanuts are largely used as substitutes for cotton seed, and there is no fabrication tax when they are crushed in Italy. The customs duty upon sesame seed and peanuts is \$11.58 per metric ton. They are imported chiefly from Bombay and other ports of India, prices averaging from \$97 to \$107 per metric ton. Freight rates from India are \$41 to \$44 per ton, and upward.

Cottonseed oil, of which by far the greater part comes from the United States, has manifested a heavy decline in imports into Italy during the past three years. Imports of sesame and peanuts, on the contrary, have steadily advanced, the gain in 1915 over 1914 being in excess of 40 per cent. In the manufacture of olive oil, however, sesame and peanuts are said to be unsuitable as a substitute for cottonseed oil.

TO RESUME SERVICE TO WEST INDIES.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. will resume its service between New York and the West Indies in December. Steamer *Tagus* is scheduled to sail from New York December 2, followed two weeks later by the steamer *Danube*. It is planned to have departures from New York regularly every other Saturday. Both steamers are equipped for the conveyance of refrigerator as well as general cargo. The itinerary of the 22-day cruise to the Caribbean and return includes Santiago (Cuba), Kingston (Jamaica), Colon (Panama), Puerto Colombia and Cartagena (Colombia).

BRITISH DYEWARE SITUATION.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Aug. 16.]

The Times Trade Supplement for August, 1916, contains an article by Prof. H. E. Armstrong in which he states that it is imperative not only that the British Government should at once take certain steps in connection with the manufacture of dyewares, but that such steps should be rapidly followed by a comprehensive measure dealing with the vast problem of fuel economy. In this connection, after mentioning that it has long been contended by those who have studied the question that the use of raw coal, except anthracite, should not be permitted, and that materials of value should be extracted before the fuel is burned, he says:

If, as has been urged, the Government were to foreshadow legislation, at no distant date, to prohibit the use of raw coal; if, as the president of the Society of Chemical Industry suggested at Edinburgh a few days ago, we allowed only the export of coke and prohibited that of raw bituminous coal, we should conserve the volatile matters that are given off from coal when it is heated. In this way we should obtain large quantities of liquid fuel suitable for use in internal-combustion engines; a more than sufficient supply of the raw materials required for the production of the modern high explosives; more than sufficient raw material for dyes, even if we were to supply the world; and very large quantities of ammonia, a product of special value, as cereal crops can not be grown without nitrogenous manures, and ammonia is one of the most important of these. Ammonia also is directly convertible into nitric acid, a substance we must expect to produce in order that we may be independent of supplies of Chile saltpeter and be prepared against the time when these no longer will be available.

Advantages from Use of Soft Coke.

The gas given off during low-temperature coking is of a high grade. A large volume would be available, far more than sufficient for domestic use. If soft coke were used in place of bituminous coal, soot and smoke would be abolished, and much less acid would be sent into the atmosphere, as not a little sulphur would be removed during coking. If we were to use soft coke in place of coal, we should be able to retain the open fire with all its advantages; though we may look forward to a much larger use of gas, especially for cooking purposes.

A scheme will have to be thought out of dividing the country into areas each provided with a carbonizing center, where the coal will be carbonized, and from which coke, liquid fuel, and gas will be distributed for use by domestic and other consumers. This center should also be a power center for the production of electricity by means of the surplus gas, coke, and liquid fuel.

Not only is legislation needed to bring about such a state of affairs but also to provide funds for the study, under the aegis of a wisely constituted, efficient, central fuel board, of all problems relating to the development of coking processes, the efficient use of fuels, and the utilization of by-products. The most appropriate method of raising the funds required will be to place a direct tax upon all coal that is raised.

Color Consumers in Favor of Combination.

The possibility of a combination of color producers in this country is discussed in an article in the Yorkshire Observer. The paper states that one of the aims consistently held by the most influential color consumers since the establishment of a large British color manufacture became imperative, has been the mobilization of the brains of the trade. It quotes those who believe that steps ought to be taken to coordinate the policy of the several dye makers, and to prevent overlapping and the wasteful expenditure of energy upon their part. In explanation it says:

The method proposed is simple, amounting to a pooling of resources whereby each of the established color companies should become a part of a central

organization, receiving in turn a fair price for its business. The parties concerned have received the suggestion favorably, and there should be no insuperable difficulty in the settlement of the details.

The proposal differs from the usual variety in coming not from the producers but from consumers whose dominant interest is to insure the quantity and quality of their supply. Color producers are doing well enough in trade to be content with independence at present, although it is obvious that an amalgamation of their interests gives better guaranties for their future. The German color companies have been recombined into a single undertaking, and it would not seem possible that without the maximum of mutual cooperation the British industry could hope to stand in competition against the German mammoth.

[A discussion by Commercial Agent Thomas H. Norton of the British measures to solve the dyestuff problem was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 5, 1915.]

BULK HANDLING OF GRAIN IN AUSTRALIA.

[William F. Smith, clerk to commercial attaché, Melbourne, Aug. 28.]

The question of erecting grain elevators for the bulk handling of Australian grain is being discussed in the different State parliaments. In New South Wales the bill authorizing the erection of elevators in that State, which passed only one house during the last session, has been reintroduced and there is likelihood that it will pass during the present session. In South Australia the question is also being discussed, as will be seen from the following item from the Melbourne Age:

In the House of Assembly on Wednesday night the Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Jackson, submitted a motion seeking authority for the inauguration of the system for the bulk handling of grain. Mr. Jackson said the Government proposed to proceed with the erection of terminal and a few other elevators as soon as authority for the expenditure had been obtained, and then to extend the system as circumstances warranted. Apart from terminal elevators at Port Adelaide, Port Pirie, Wallaroo, and Port Lincoln, there are to be 120 elevators in the country, with a capacity varying from 40,000 to 60,000 bushels. The total estimated cost, including rolling stock and alterations, is £1,025,735 [\$4,991,740]. This complete plant will handle 30,000,000 bushels. The estimated working expenses and interest total £164,607 [\$801,060] and the revenue £231,516 [\$1,126,670], showing a surplus of £66,909 [\$325,610].

The House resolved itself into committee to consider the question, and progress was reported.

[References to the bulk handling of grain in Australia have frequently appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS; see the issues for Nov. 11, 1913, Aug. 21 and 25, 1915, and Feb. 2 and Mar. 17, 1916.]

VINE PRODUCTS OF AUSTRALIAN STATE.

[William F. Smith, clerk to commercial attaché, Melbourne, Aug. 28.]

Official statistics recently made public show the progress of viticulture in the State of Victoria during the last half decade:

	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
Growers.....number..	1,650	1,808	1,776	1,739	1,700
Area bearing.....acres..	18,886	19,234	17,926	17,728	17,822
Area not bearing.....do..	5,327	5,345	4,509	4,073	4,531
Grapes gathered.....cwt..	683,250	733,579	836,493	620,876	1,064,766
Products:					
Wine.....galls..	983,423	1,206,111	1,121,491	605,636	1,380,367
Raisins.....cwt..	42,103	34,945	41,146	23,787	45,800
Sultanas.....do..	60,822	74,732	79,167	87,219	134,304
Currants.....do..	46,780	48,337	62,098	28,627	79,556

VENEZUELA'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

[American Minister Preston McGoodwin, Caracas, Aug. 26.]

There are in Venezuela six petroleum companies engaged in development work on an extensive scale—the Caribbean Petroleum Co., Colon Development Co., Venezuelan Oil Concessions (Ltd.), Venezuela-Falcon Oil Syndicate (Ltd.), Bermudez Co., and the Pauji Concession. The first-mentioned of these—the Caribbean Petroleum Co.—acquired what was known as the Tregelles concession from the General Asphalt Co., and during 1912 and 1913 employed a force of 35 experienced geologists, assisted by a great number of Venezuelan civil engineers, who covered nearly every foot of territory included in the concession. At the end of two years the company had staked out and definitely selected 1,028 areas of 500 hectares (1,235 acres) each, in which it intended, within the time allowed, to drill for oil.

For its preliminary work the company selected two sections for drilling, one on each side of Lake Maracaibo, State of Zulia, in the extreme northwestern part of Venezuela. One of these sections is 16 miles east of the lake, where material has to be transported through swamps over a road built by the company. When the road was completed and properly screened houses had been erected for the employees drilling equipment for three wells was immediately shipped in and drilling commenced in January, 1914. On this area the company has drilled six wells, from 600 to 1,700 feet in depth, in all of which oil has been found. Enough work has been done to prove conclusively that this is a commercial field. Most of these wells are capped.

Development Work of Caribbean Co.

The company has erected three 55,000-barrel steel tanks, has laid a pipe line to the shore of Lake Maracaibo, and has built a refinery at the terminal of its pipe line at a place called San Lorenzo. Every grade of oil except lubricants will be refined at this point. Pumps and pipe lines have been installed for loading tank steamers or barges for the shipment of the oil from Venezuela. It is planned to have the refinery, pumping station, and pipe line completed in time for the company to make its first shipments in December, 1916.

The field selected by this company on the western side of Lake Maracaibo is about 50 miles from the shore of the lake, and a road had to be built to it for the transportation of material through a flat but heavily wooded country. As on the east side of the lake, the company delivered to this site equipment sufficient for drilling three wells. Two wells were sunk to a level of about 1,000 feet and abandoned prior to April, 1915. In June, 1916, work was started on four additional wells in this section for testing purposes, the deepest of which is now about 800 feet.

The same company is developing areas in other sections, as it is required to do under the terms of its contract with the Government of Venezuela. Although the section on the east side of Lake Maracaibo undoubtedly contains oil in quantities sufficient for commercial development, no information is obtainable upon which to base an estimate of probable future production.

Colon Development Co.

Under what was known as the Andrés Jorge Vigas concession, granted January 3, 1907, for oil rights in the District of Colon, State

of Zulia, the Colon Development Co., an English corporation, commenced drilling operations early in 1914. This company encountered difficulty in its geological exploration work, owing to roving bands of Motilon Indians. It was necessary to employ from 60 to 100 armed guards with the exploring parties, and a force of 50 to 60 guards has been kept at the drilling camps.

Development was started by this company about 100 miles from the nearest settlement, and, although there are rivers for transporting material, it was necessary to expend immense sums in delivering equipment. The first drill was started the latter part of 1914, and after having experienced great difficulties with drillers and laborers, the first well was abandoned at a depth of 700 feet. The company has just succeeded in drilling its second well on the Rio Oro. The depth attained is somewhat over 1,000 feet, and the oil is of light gravity. The capacity of this well is said to be approximately 200 barrels a day. However, means of transportation must be provided, and the company is now engaged in building roads for that purpose; also in drilling another well on the Rio Tarra, now said to have reached a depth of about 500 feet.

The best information to be had from persons who are familiar with the territory occupied by the Colon enterprise is to the effect that the company will produce oil in commercial quantities.

Venezuelan Oil Concessions.

On February 28, 1907, a contract was granted to one Antonio Aranguren for the development of asphalt in the Districts of Bolivar and Maracaibo of the State of Zulia, and on June 18, 1912, a decree was issued by the Government of Venezuela, bestowing upon the concessionaire the right to exploit petroleum. There has been some question raised as to the legality of this latter decree, but, notwithstanding protests made by other oil-producing companies, the decree has been allowed to stand. In the latter part of 1913 it was transferred, after preliminary geological investigation, to the Venezuelan Oil Concessions (Ltd.), an English corporation.

Four drillers and an office staff and field superintendent were sent out from London late in 1913 by this company. Two wells were started immediately, one at a point on the shores of Lake Maracaibo called Santa Rita, and the other in the swamp just south of Santa Rosa, also located on the shores of the lake. Drilling in the Santa Rita well was carried to a depth of 1,600 feet without any trace of oil having been encountered. At Santa Rosa an oil sand of good promise was encountered at 800 feet, and at 1,500 feet another sand was found which produced oil of about 20° B. Undoubtedly upon striking this last sand a great quantity of oil was produced, but ten days after the strike the production was not more than 10 barrels a day. Apparently no attempt was made to pump this well, and it seems to have been abandoned.

Difficulties Encountered—Venezuela-Falcon Syndicate.

The company encountered very great obstacles because of the general unhealthful conditions under which the men were compelled to work and the impossibility of keeping them protected from the very dangerous malarial mosquito found in those localities. Also, the company seemed to realize, about the middle of 1914, that the system used in drilling was not suitable to the conditions and placed

an order for drilling equipment in the United States. It was planned to start work with this new machinery immediately, but operations were seriously hampered by the outbreak of the European war.

Although work has been carried on continually it has been done with a very limited force, and no very satisfactory results have been obtained. To date the company has succeeded in drilling seven wells, varying in depth from 600 to 1,800 feet and scattered over a considerable area. It has been reported that oil was found in five of the seven wells, and that at least two of them give promise of good production.

On July 22, 1907, there was granted what is known in Venezuela as the Bernabé Planas concession for the development of oil in the district of Buchivacoa in the State of Falcon. After having been offered for sale for a number of years an option was given, in 1913, to an English company called the Venezuela-Falcon Oil Syndicate (Ltd.). After preliminary investigation lasting about a year and a half, the company finally agreed to start development work, but it appears that the equipment has not yet been delivered.

The Bermudez Company.

On July 14, 1910, the General Asphalt Co., which owned the large asphalt deposit known as Bermudez Lake, situated in the extreme northeastern part of Venezuela at a place called Guanoco, obtained a concession for the oil rights in the vicinity of the lake; also on the island of Pedernales and the Peninsula of Paria. This concession, obtained by R. M. Valladares, was transferred to a subsidiary of the asphalt company called the Bermudez Co. Very soon after acquiring the right the Bermudez Co. sent a force of 10 geologists over its concession and finally selected 19 areas of 500 hectares each in the vicinity of the asphalt lake, 6 areas on the Peninsula of Paria, and 4 areas on the island of Pedernales. The terms of the concession of the Bermudez Co. called for almost immediate exploitation of all areas selected. By June, 1913, wells were being drilled on all of the 29 areas. On the 6 areas of the Peninsula of Paria wells were sunk deep enough to demonstrate the impossibility of producing oil in commercial quantities, and all of them were promptly abandoned.

At Pedernales the company drilled seven wells ranging in depth from 200 to 1,000 feet, occasionally finding traces of oil but not in sufficient quantities. In this region the company encountered great difficulties because of heaving sands, soft mud, and gas pressure, all of which made it necessary for the company to adopt several methods of drilling.

In the Guanoco areas wells have been sunk in varying depths from 200 to 4,200 feet. In some of them a heavy oil, almost an asphalt, has been found, and invariably in fair quantities, but it is too heavy to pump. Two additional wells have been started in this region quite recently, but no commercial results have been obtained. The company has done considerable geological work to locate a proper place to drill where it could reach oil, still believed to exist in large quantities in that region.

The operations of this company have been exceedingly difficult because nearly all the wells in the three regions described are located in swamps, and it has been necessary to lay portable tracks on trestles to transport drilling material. Although the general camp

of the company was located at the same place as the headquarters of the General Asphalt Co., where several hundred employees are maintained constantly, yet the field camps have been in very unhealthful places and there has been considerable sickness among the employees.

Pauji Concession—No Other Work Now in Progress.

On January 16, 1909, a petroleum concession was granted to Joaquin Briceño on 3 hectares (7.4 acres) of land adjoining a place known as Pauji, 30 miles east of Lake Maracaibo. The right was secured doubtless because of the abundant evidence of asphalt seepages, which are very numerous in that locality. A company was formed recently in the city of Maracaibo with a large nominal capital but with only about \$50,000 for actual work. An American has been investigating the property, and it is reported in Caracas that drilling machinery will shortly arrive. Stockholders are confident that development work will be pushed rapidly.

In addition to the properties of the six companies above enumerated, there are not more than three or four ancient and modern concessions in existence, and no other development is now known to be in progress.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon.	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.	Havre, France.	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland. .	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.	Bristol, England. ....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E. b.	Georgetown, Guiana. .	.....	.....
Spahr, Herman L. c.	Montevideo, Uruguay. .	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 406, Customhouse, New York City.

* Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

* Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

* Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

New Sanitary Regulations in Panama.

New sanitary regulations for the cities of Panama and Colon appear in a recent number of the *Gaceta Oficial*. These regulations specify the conditions that must be maintained in markets and other places where foodstuffs are sold, and also in hotels, restaurants, and boarding houses.

NAVIGATION AND TIMBER PROJECT IN HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Sept. 2.]

The Patuca River is the longest river in Honduras. While it has never been carefully surveyed over the entire length, it is at least 150 miles long and the headwaters are not more than 80 miles from the Pacific.

The idea of improving this stream for navigation purposes has long been a favorite project with concession seekers. The main part of the river is already navigable, and it is believed that by dredging the bar at the mouth and making comparatively minor changes in the river proper it will be navigable for about 80 miles from the mouth.

The Patuca and Wanks Rivers (the latter forming the boundary between Honduras and Nicaragua) drain the eastern part of the country popularly known as the Mosquito Reservation. Three distinct concessions have been granted to American companies for developing this section during the last 35 years, but none of them has been successful, evidently for lack of sufficient capital. The "Mosquitia" is said to be rich in natural resources, having a fertile soil, but is not well known, being largely unexplored. It contains some 7,500 square miles of territory and an estimated population of 6,000 inhabitants. Lumber and turpentine are the commodities that are most attractive.

Surveys Made by an American Company—Proposed Undertakings.

An American company during the past two years has been making extensive surveys and study of the mouth of the river in order to form an estimate of the cost of properly developing the Mosquito Reservation. The Honduras Government is now considering the proposals made by this company.

The project is distinctly in line with a measure passed at the last session of Congress for a free port at the mouth of this river, especially for the development of that section.

The concessionaires propose to dredge the Patuca bar to admit ocean-going steamers; to build wharves at the new port of Herrera, together with customhouse, "comandancia," and all necessary Government buildings; install wireless telegraph and telephone systems, and erect lighthouses, all of which will become the property of the Government at the expiration of the concession. For their own use the company proposes to erect sawmills, turpentine stills, dye works, sugar refinery, and meat-packing house. In addition to the improvements of the bar and the Patuca River it expects also to build canals connecting the Patuca and Wanks Rivers with the Caratasca Lagoon, so that not only the Patuca but the Wanks River as well will have navigation facilities.

The company asks for Government grants of timberland to the extent of 125,000 hectares of land (about 310,000 acres), to be selected on alternate sides of the river and alternating with Government tracts. The duration of the concession is 25 years.

The estimated cost of the bar dredging and lighthouse is \$100,000 and a like sum for the necessary wharves and wireless station.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Steel buoy bodies, No. 3654.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until October 20, 1916, for furnishing eight steel buoy bodies, type S. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named officer.

Fishing privileges, No. 3655.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Detroit, Mich., until November 7, 1916, for the sale of fishing privileges at Island No. 6, Seammons Harbor, Straits of Mackinac, Mich., for a period of five years. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named officer.

Telegraph poles, No. 3656.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 25, 1916, for furnishing steel telegraph poles and cross arms for iron poles complete with bolts. (Refer to proposal No. 856.)

Post-office construction, No. 3657.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 21, 1916, for the construction complete of the post office at Rockville, Conn. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Rockville, Conn., or from the above-named office.

Gasoline motor boat, No. 3658.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for the purchase of a gasoline motor boat of light draft, 60 to 80 feet long. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Construction work, No. 3659.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the secretary, Mississippi River Commission, 1311 International Life Building, St. Louis, Mo., until October 30, 1916, for constructing about 40,000 cubic yards of earthwork in the East Side Levee and Sanitary District, Ill. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

Vessel for coast guard, No. 3660.—Sealed proposals will be received at the headquarters, United States Coast Guard, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 9, 1916, for the building of the hull and machinery, complete, of a 120-foot cutter. Plans and specifications will be furnished on application to the captain commandant, United States Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Iron-pipe towers, No. 3661.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Charleston, S. C., until October 20, 1916, for furnishing f. o. b. Charleston, S. C., six 30-foot and eleven 8-foot skeleton iron-pipe towers. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named officer.

Lock gates, No. 3662.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wheeling, W. Va., until October 30, 1916, for furnishing and erecting lock gates for Dam No. 22, Ohio River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Canned beef, No. 3663.—Sealed proposals will be received at the general depot of the Quartermaster Corps, War Department, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until October 12, 1916, for furnishing corned beef, roast fresh beef, and corned-beef hash in cans.

Wire, No. 3664.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 26, 1916, for furnishing 1,000 miles of wire. Specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 857.)

Medical books, No. 3665.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, until October 14, 1916, for furnishing 26 copies of Appletons' Monographic-Medicine, in 6 volumes, and 58 copies of General Bacteriology, by Jordan, fifth edition.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Motor cars, No. 22622.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in the Netherlands writes that a manufacturers' agent in that country wishes to represent an American manufacturer of a moderate-priced motor car.

Graphite, No. 22623.—The Bureau is informed that a business man in the West Indies desires to communicate with importers and others interested in the purchase of graphite, known also as black lead and plumbago.

Textiles, hosiery, etc., No. 22624.—A business man in Switzerland wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of textiles, such as hosiery, wool and cotton yarns, linen thread, etc.

Chemicals, hardware, etc., No. 22625.—An import and export firm on the Pacific coast of the United States writes the Bureau that it is in receipt of inquiries from the Orient for chemicals, hardware, cutlery, machinery, farm implements, automobiles, dry goods, shoes, hosiery, block tin pipes, lead and tin ingots, zinc boiler plates, fish, fruit, lumber, etc. Reference. Catalogues and quotations desired.

Paper, No. 22626.—A firm in northern Africa desires quotations with samples, etc., on news paper and wrapping paper.

Distillery plants, No. 22627.—A firm in the United States having interests in South America writes the Bureau that it would like to purchase or acquire for shipment to South America one or more plants for the distillation of alcohol, exclusive of buildings. Expert men to operate the same are also wanted.

Notions, novelties, etc., No. 22628.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a firm in his district desires to act as agent for American manufacturers or wholesale dealers in pins, needles, safety pins, hooks and eyes, hairpins, thumbles, scissors, etc.

General representation, No. 22629.—An export house in Italy desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters interested in extending their trade in that country. No particular line is specified. The Italian firm also desires to communicate with importers in the United States of Italian products. References.

Mourning cards and announcements, No. 22630.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive samples and prices of blank mourning cards in sizes 2 by 3 inches to 4 by 6 inches. Black border on these cards to be from one-fourth inch to three-eighths inch wide. Samples and prices are also desired of mourning folders similar to sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 80374.)

Enameled ware, No. 22631.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm in his district is desirous of being placed in communication with American manufacturers of enameled hollow ware, including kitchen utensils, etc. Reference.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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No. 237 Washington, D. C., Monday, October 9 1916

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SPAIN REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN BIDS.

[Cablegram from American consulates at Madrid.]

A royal decree removes the restrictions on foreign bids for Government purchases of the following articles: Gas motors over 30 horsepower; gas generators for motors over 50 horsepower; electric dynamos over 50 kilowatts; 10,000-volt transformers over 200 kilowatts; soft steel for iron forms; rails over 20 kilos per lineal meter; soft sheet steel.

MODIFICATION OF FRENCH EMBARGO DECREE.

According to information received from the American Consul General at Paris, a French order of October 5 permits the exportation to Great Britain, British dominions, protectorates, and colonies, uninvaded Belgium, Japan, Russia, and countries of North and South America of the articles placed under embargo by a decree of the same date, viz, silk in cocoons or raw or thrown, and dyed or thrown and dyed silk; floss silk and byssus; floss and coarse silk thread; sewing, embroidery, passementerie, cords, and other silk thread; artificial silk thread stock; silk or floss fabrics, pure or mixed, and all artificial silk fabrics.

BRITISH ZINC SMELTING INDUSTRY.

[Consul General R. P. Skinner, London, Sept. 15.]

Announcement has lately been made that the British Government has agreed to purchase from Australia 100,000 tons of zinc concentrates per annum for the period of the war and for 10 years after the conclusion of the war. The undertaking, apparently, is to be carried out through the Ministry of Munitions. No information is available at present respecting the method whereby the ore, when received, will be distributed among manufacturers in this country for conversion.

The contract with Australian interests is to assure them of a steady outlet for ore, which heretofore has been smelted in other countries,

to render the United Kingdom independent of any other country for its supplies of zinc.

It is noted that although Australia has produced large quantities of zinc ore and concentrates for years, the production of zinc in the United Kingdom up to the present has lagged far behind that of both Germany and the United States, the production before the war having been about 58,000 tons in this country as against 320,000 tons in the United States, and 280,000 tons in Germany.

AMERICAN CHEWING GUM IN CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 24.]

American chewing gum is becoming popular among the Chinese in Hongkong, and it is believed by the representatives of the American manufacturers here that if the product can be especially packed for Chinese consumption the sales will increase considerably. There should be some indication on the retail package in Chinese characters as to what the product is and as to particular brands and flavors. It has been found also that the Chinese prefer a package smaller than the usual 5-cent package common in the United States, one retailing for 1 cent gold being preferred. It is a well-established Chinese custom to buy all such things in small quantities.

One of the characteristic features of street life in a Chinese village is the large number of small tables or stands along the street kept by vendors of peanuts, cakes, confectionery, fruits, and the like on which the goods sold are arranged in small piles for sale at a small price—a handful of peanuts for 10 cash, for example; a handful of lichees for 10 cash, or a cent; and so on. Passers-by put down their 10 cent cash or cent pieces, pick up their purchase, and proceed to consume it. It is to meet just such habits and trade that the smaller package of chewing gum and of all similar products is desirable.

SUMMARY OF EXPERIMENTS ON SILVER VOLTAMETER.

The silver voltameter is the instrument by which the international ampere is determined. The National Laboratories of England, France, and Germany, as well as the United States Bureau of Standards, have conducted investigations of the voltameter with a view to improving its accuracy and also to provide specifications for its use, but as yet no international agreement has been reached for the specifications. The present investigations at the Bureau of Standards have extended from 1908 to 1916, and during that time the results have been published in a series of eight papers.

The Bureau of Standards has now issued Scientific Paper No. 285, which contains a summary of these eight papers and carefully drawn specifications, which are the practical result of the bureau's work. The bureau puts these specifications forward as its proposal for international adoption. A bibliography of papers dealing with voltameter problems is given in an appendix. Copies of this publication may be obtained without charge upon application to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS USED IN EASTERN BRAZIL.

[Special Agent Frank H. von Motz, Pernambuco, Aug. 24; see also COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 5 and 6, 1916.]

In going from Pernambuco to Catende the train passes through fields of such fine-looking cane that one wonders what methods are employed in its cultivation; yet one of the first things discovered upon visiting the plantation of the Catende Sugar Mill was that there were no agricultural implements on the place, although it is so extensive that it requires more than 75 miles of railway track to bring the cane from the different fields to the mill. The surface of the ground comprising the estate is very hilly, some of the hills being so steep that it would be impossible to work the land with horse-drawn implements. The soil is a white sandy soil, rich in organic matter, with a buff-colored clay subsoil. The ground is plowed, or rather hoed, by negro men and women using an adze-shaped steel hoe. I have seen more than 20 workmen in a single line slowly and patiently chopping away at the ground to turn it over and pulverize it to make the seed bed for the cane. The laborers are paid 600 or 700 reis a day each for their work, equivalent at the present rate of exchange to 15 or 17½ cents in American currency.

After a field has been broken up in the manner described the same hoe is again employed to make long trenches about 8 inches deep. The cane is planted in the trenches and covered with earth with the same hoe that has already served as a plow and middle breaker and which is to perform still another important function—that of cultivating the ground between the rows of young cane to keep it free from weeds. Surely in a great agricultural country one would have to look a long time to find a more unpromising field from the manufacturer's standpoint. It must be remembered, however, that this system of plowing and cultivating is followed chiefly in the very hilly districts of the State of Pernambuco.

Modern Methods Practiced at State Farm.

In the vicinity of Garanhuns is an agricultural institute operated under the direction of the State Government of Pernambuco where modern implements are used. Here, however, mixed farming is practiced, Indian corn, Irish potatoes, beans, asparagus, sweet potatoes, mandioca, flax, coffee, sugar cane, and a native grass (valued for the fine quality of hay it produces) being the crops grown.

The two types of plows that have given the best results are two-way sulkies and reversible disks, one yoke of bullocks furnishing sufficient power to work the plows to a depth of 3½ inches, which is all that is required. Cheap cast-iron hillside plows are used for cultivating and have met with a ready acceptance. Aside from the chilled cultivating plows, the only type of cultivator favored is the 5-tooth cultivator with expanding lever, fitted with two regular bull-tongue shovels, two 10-inch and one 12-inch sweeps.

For planting corn and cotton, both of which are generally planted in rows 4 to 5 feet apart (so that mandioca can be planted in between), the most successful implement is the runner opener one-horse planter with fertilizer attachment and with press wheel. (Shovel or knife coverers are not acceptable.) The same machine is used

for planting a wide variety of beans, which are planted in rows 4 feet apart, with about 10 inches between plants. Most of the Irish potatoes are planted by hand, but the cup type of potato planter with fertilizer attachment and disk coverers has been successfully used with native-grown seed. Planters do not like to use the potato planter when planting imported seed, which is very expensive, their reason for this being that the workmen are careless and allow too much seed to be damaged by the machine. The distances used in planting potatoes are the same as for beans. The reason that fertilizer attachments are wanted for planters is that the soil lacks lime, which is generally supplied at planting time.

Harrows and Hay Tools.

Disk harrows in the 4, 6, and 8 foot sizes are very popular. They should always be supplied with weight boxes, this equipment being required throughout Brazil. In this particular district very few tongue trucks have been used with disk harrows; elsewhere in Brazil tongue trucks are in great demand. The 2-section, 60 or 70 tooth, spike-toothed harrow is quite popular and should be furnished with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch teeth not less than 10 inches long.

The Director of the Institute told me that during the dry season it is absolutely necessary to prepare hay for cattle and work animals. In spite of this most of the hay is being cut by hand, and very few farmers have ever heard of a mower, hay rake, or baling press. The Director believes that if a few practical demonstrations with these implements could be given it would lead to the sale of quite a number of them. Mowers should be of a size easily operated by two oxen in fields where the grass is long and heavy; for this purpose I would recommend 4 or 4½ foot mowers. Baling presses should be horse-power presses in two sizes, one for making 90-pound bales and one for 180-pound bales. Light, sturdy construction at a reasonable price is very desirable.

In the district where the Government farm is situated there are thousands of acres of Indian corn, yet there is not a single corn sheller or a sweep mill for grinding ear corn, both of which are very much needed. The old-fashioned method of pounding the corn in a stone mortar is still in vogue and is a very slow process.

To introduce the various implements to which I have referred would require a lot of educational work and at first would be slow in producing results. Personally, however, I am of the opinion that an enterprising salesman-demonstrator has a fine field to work in throughout the State of Pernambuco and could build up a large volume of business. It is characteristic of the Brazilian farmer that once he has found a suitable implement he is anxious to let his neighbors and friends know about it, and a certain line or brand once introduced does not need to fear much competition from other similar lines.

American Tractor on Sugar Estate.

On the sugar fazenda of Dr. Bezera, Minister of Agriculture for Brazil at Cabo, a 40-horsepower tractor is giving excellent satisfaction. For fuel it uses alcohol made on the estate. It is a pity that so much of the land in the north of Brazil is too hilly to permit the use of more tractors, as they certainly are the ideal machines for working large holdings.

In this district cane is very often planted in furrows about 8 inches deep made with a middle breaker in land that has never been plowed. The furrows are 3 to 5 feet apart. An implement for making the furrows which has found a ready sale in all parts of the cane districts is the Bajac (French) middle breaker with a chilled bottom. The middle-breaker beam is of steel, as are also the handles. A gauge wheel is provided for regulating the depth, and an adjustable draft rod for regulating the hitch. The moldboards are more than 20 inches long and are adjustable for width, like the moldboards of wing-shovel plows. This share is capable of penetrating rather hard clay soil that has never been plowed. A steel fore-carriage is always furnished with the plow. This is one of the most acceptable implements in the State of Pernambuco, and as the Bajac factory is in the war zone and will probably not be in a position to furnish this plow for some years to come, it might be well for some American manufacturer to try to furnish a good substitute. The retail price of the plow in Pernambuco is 250 milreis (\$62.50 American currency). I have seen a plowman try to open, with an American-made chilled hillside plow, the same kind of a furrow the Bajac opens, but the result was far from satisfactory. A wide furrow is not wanted; most of them are not over 6 inches wide at the top and are V-shaped. To open a furrow of that kind in new land with a hillside plow means that the plowman has to put all his weight on one of the handles, making it next to impossible to cut a straight furrow and taxing the strength of the man. To accomplish the same work with the Bajac middle breaker it is only necessary for the plowman to guide the plow.

The sugar cane on this estate is hauled to the mill in American-built steel wagons which have given very good results. Most of the wagons that have come out so far have been supplied without bolster springs, and from some parts of the country there is a demand for springs. Good strong brakes are required everywhere.

NEW RATES FOR ALASKAN RADIO SERVICE.

The Director of Naval Communications has announced that, effective October 1, 1916, radio rates, to conform as near as possible to the rates of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph system effective that date, will be placed in effect via the Naval Communication Service in Alaska. These rates will supersede all other rates in effect over this system.

All traffic to or from ships at sea will be prefixed "Radio." Cable count will be used. Ten-word minimum will be required. Naval radio stations at St. Paul, St. George, Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Cordova, and Sitka will apply a 6-cent coast tax. Service between any point in Alaska reached by the Naval Communication Service or the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph system and any of these stations will carry a rate of 5 cents per word additional. This will also include North Head or Seattle for local delivery or for transfer to other systems to reach points beyond these systems. The traffic may be routed via either the Naval Communication Service or cable service or both. This rate does not include other line charges, which should be added if it is necessary to employ other lines to reach destination.

SIAM'S NEW BUDGET ESTIMATES.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 17.]

The recently published report of the Financial Adviser on Siam's budget estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1917, shows that the last fiscal year closed with a surplus of \$3,095,100, and that, including this sum, nearly \$7,400,000 has been added to the treasury reserves within two years. This result constitutes a record in the financial history of Siam. Partly owing to this improvement in the revenue, it was decided to suppress one important source of revenue for the current year, namely, the public lottery, which for last year yielded \$1,308,200.

The ordinary revenue, for the fiscal twelvemonth ending March 31, 1917, is estimated at \$26,692,350, but included in this amount is \$829,350 transferred from the treasury reserves in order to make the total equal that of the year's anticipated outlays. The various revenue heads in the budget estimates for the current year embrace: Government domains, including forests, mines, etc., estimated revenue \$1,671,500, an increase of \$181,225 as compared with 1915-16; commercial services, including posts, telegraphs, telephones, and railways, \$2,836,050, increase, \$280,600; other direct revenue, \$465,575, increase, \$50,075; direct taxes, including land revenue and capitation tax, \$5,756,325, increase, \$335,375; other taxes, including customs, excise, etc., \$7,115,325, decrease, \$1,050,525; opium monopoly, \$5,955,600, increase, \$65,150; fees, fines, and licenses, \$1,986,900; increase, \$151,000; miscellaneous revenues, \$339,325, increase, \$47,250.

Extraordinary Expenditures.

The budget estimates that relate to expenditures not to be met from the revenue of the year are provided for by foreign loans, the treasury reserve, and the sinking fund, and for the fiscal twelvemonth ending March 31, 1917, amount to \$6,820,875, an increase of \$1,459,050, as compared with the estimates for 1915-16. The only expenditures chargeable to loans are those relating to the construction of the main lines of the southern railway, and the amount set aside for this purpose for the current year is \$2,326,925, being a reduction of \$62,525, as compared with last year, owing to the fact that the requirements for rails and steelwork for bridges were smaller. From the treasury reserves \$4,205,550 is provided for domestic utilities and new works in the process of construction during the current year, namely, for the northern railway extension, \$1,332,000; for branch lines of southern railway, \$254,200; for Bangkok waterworks, \$70,850; for irrigation purposes, \$1,291,850; construction of new royal yacht, \$427,275; and for current expenditures, \$829,375.

The sum of \$288,400 is chargeable to the loan sinking fund and provides for interest and annuities in paying off the loans, which consist of a £1,000,000 (\$4,866,500) loan in 1905 and a £3,000,000 (\$14,599,500) loan in 1907, both of which were raised in Europe and pay 4½ per cent interest; and, finally, a loan of £4,000,000 (\$19,466,000) in 1909 from the British Federated Malay States for the southern railway extension, this loan being afterwards increased to \$4,750,000 (\$23,115,875), bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent on the moneys actually advanced from time to time as needed for the work on this railway. The total amount drawn on the last-named

loan is now £3,130,000 (\$15,232,200), while the two other loans have been reduced by repayment of capital to £3,700,200 (\$18,007,000), so that by March 31, 1917, the net aggregate indebtedness of Siam would amount to £6,830,200 (\$33,239,200).

In a statement appended at the end of the report the Financial Adviser shows that there has been a steady advance in Siam's ordinary revenue during the last 23 years, indicating a general increase in the wealth of the country, the actual ordinary revenue having advanced from \$5,689,900 in 1893 to \$27,344,350 in 1915. However, there has been a corresponding increase in expenditures during the same period, these having risen from \$5,520,021 to \$24,248,170.

GRAIN-ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTION IN RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 2.]

The construction and ownership by the Government of grain elevators in Russia is now a settled policy of the country. The whole question has been placed in the hands of the State Bank, which sublets and finances the construction and directs the subsequent operation of the elevators.

According to the official statement just published, on January 1, 1915, there were open for exploitation 18 Government elevators having a total capacity of 6,000,000 bushels. On January 1, 1916, the number had increased to 33 elevators with a total capacity of 12,000,000 bushels. According to the building program submitted by the State Bank, which was officially approved in July, 1915, it is proposed to construct 77 grain elevators, with a total capacity of 40,000,000 bushels, but the full realization of this program will be possible only after the war. Meanwhile the State Bank is putting up only elevators of the larger type, with a capacity of 600,000 bushels, in the important grain-growing centers, at points where the need of them is pressing.

Elevators of Railway Companies and Others—Small Country Elevators.

In March, 1913, there were also 61 railway and private elevators in Russia, having a total capacity of 14,000,000 bushels, including the elevators in the following ports: Petrograd, two elevators, 2,000,000 bushels; Reval, one elevator, 150,000 bushels; Riga, one elevator, 450,000 bushels; Windau, one elevator, 1,500,000 bushels; Novorossisk, one elevator, 1,800,000 bushels; Nikolaief, one elevator, 1,000,000 bushels; Odessa, one elevator, 600,000 bushels.

The average capacity of the Russian port elevator is about 1,000,000 bushels; those of the railways average 150,000 bushels, while the size of the State Bank elevators is some 350,000 bushels. The railway elevators serve merely for the temporary storage of grain in the interior, pending transfer to the ports, where the larger elevators for storage are provided. The State Bank's policy is to construct grain elevators in the larger grain trading and exchange centers in the interior, in order to permit of longer storage when necessary according to the market situation.

In addition to these larger collecting and storage elevators, there remains the question of the creation of the smaller country or local elevators. The State Bank encourages agricultural and cooperative societies and credit associations to erect the necessary accommodation by offering to advance up to 90 per cent of the total cost, to be repayable at the end of 10 to 15 years.

AMERICAN INTEREST IN NEW HONDURAN INDUSTRY.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Aug. 22.]

The development of an industry which is closely related to the banana trade is to receive an impetus from American interests. Bananas suitable for export must always be a certain size or number of "hands." The rejection of smaller bunches by the fruit companies has always been a source of complaint and also of loss to the planters. It is now proposed to use them in the manufacture of alcohol. By executive order, the President of Honduras has signed a contract by which an American of long experience in the fruit business in the Tropics, representing a company of American capitalists, is granted the right to erect a distillery at San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The concessionaire has deposited \$25,000 with the Government as an earnest of good faith, which is to be credited toward export duties on the alcohol at 3 cents gold per gallon. He will also pay 4,000 pesos annually (about \$2,000) for salaries of Government inspectors, as distillation of spirits is a Government monopoly. He agrees to take all the bananas offered up to 200,000 bunches monthly at a fixed price of 30 cents gold per hundredweight. The concessionaire must begin distilling within one year from the date of congressional approbation of the concession.

Stimulus for Northern Section of Honduras.

This new industry will be a valuable stimulus for the northern section of Honduras, by helping out the decreasing banana industry of the Cortes district, increasing railroad freights, and providing labor for the natives.

In addition to the Executive order mentioned, the Department of Fomento of the Honduras Government has also approved the company's application for the right to build a sugar mill and a paper mill near the distillery. The company proposes to supply planters with funds for planting sugar cane on the worn-out banana lands, and will also distill from the cane, the bagasse of which is to be used in the manufacture of paper. Experiments will be made in the manufacture of paper from banana waste.

The concessionaire is just leaving for the United States, but may be addressed later at San Pedro Sula. His company is capitalized at \$500,000.

[The name of the concessionaire mentioned, and of the company he represents, with the address in the United States, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80156.]

CAPE ST. ELIAS LIGHT STATION IN OPERATION.

The new Cape St. Elias light station, Alaska, located on the south end of Kayak Island, was first lighted on September 6. This light is of 300,000 candlepower, and the range due to its elevation is 15½ nautical miles. This is one of the most important light stations on the coast of Alaska, as it is the landfall light for vessels bound to Prince William Sound or Cook Inlet from either the Pacific coast of the United States or southeastern Alaska.

SHIPPING INCREASES AT PORTO RICAN PORTS.

[Harwood Hull, correspondent, San Juan, Sept. 27.]

Ships entering Porto Rican ports have greatly increased in number during the two years of the war despite the curtailment of various shipping services. Increased facilities for furnishing supplies to vessels at this port are credited with attracting many new vessels. A new modern coal dock has just been completed here and is equipped with mechanical loading and unloading devices. Fuel-oil tanks with a capacity of 2,000,000 gallons have been built at the port of Ponce, while similar tanks are under construction at San Juan.

During the year ended June 30, 1914, the total number of ships entering Porto Rican ports was 838, of which 582 were steamships and 256 sailing vessels. In the period ended June 30, 1915, the number of ships was 888, an increase of 50 vessels. Of this number 604 were steamers and 284 sailing vessels. For the year ended June 30, 1916, there were 958 Porto Rican arrivals, an increase of 70 vessels over last year, and an increase of 120 vessels over the year before the war. The increase shown in 1915 was due chiefly to the larger number of British vessels calling here.

Spain Has Held Lead in Foreign Trade.

In the year ended June, 1914, Spain held the lead in the foreign trade, both in the number of vessels sent here and in the tonnage represented. There were 76 Spanish steamers and one Spanish sailing vessel that entered island ports, representing a tonnage of 132,657. Although British ships came next with 89 vessels, their tonnage of 81,668 was very much below that of Germany, whose 57 steamers and 1 sailing vessel represented 117,056 tons.

In 1915 Spanish vessels still led in tonnage with 135,448 to 123,248 for British shipping. In this year, however, there was a remarkable increase in the number of British vessels calling here, rising from 89 in 1914 to 150 in 1915. From 57 vessels calling here in the year prior to the war France fell off to 39 in 1915.

The trade of ships under American registry and in domestic trade decreased steadily throughout this period. In 1914 the number visiting here was 397, of which 263 were steamships and 134 sailing vessels. The tonnage represented, however, was much higher than the entire tonnage of the foreign trade of the year, being 678,884 against 540,189. The same was the case in the following year when, with only 369 vessels as against the 519 of the foreign trade, the tonnage represented was 673,234 against 486,399.

The increase in the shipping of Porto Rico during the period of the war is attributed by authorities here to natural causes, and it is said that but for the war the increase would have been much greater, as there has been a loss of German shipping which previously was extensively employed in trade here. It is not thought that the war has created any artificial increase.

Direct Steamship Line with Brazil.

A significant feature has been the introduction of a direct line of communication with Brazil. The freight business on this route is reaching good proportions. During 1914 not a Brazilian steamer entered local ports; in 1915 there were but two and since that time

there have been monthly calls here by such vessels until, at present, the Lloyd Brasileiro Line has four steamers a month stopping at this port, two bound for New York and two for South America. The Brazilian ships take on coal here.

[A report of the inauguration of the Brazilian steamship service was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 10, 1916.]

MARKET CONDITIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCE.

[Vice Consul Fayette J. Flexer, Port Elizabeth, Aug. 14.]

For the past month the wool market has been extremely quiet. With the exception of short, seedy wools a good demand exists for all descriptions. Last season's clip has been marketed and the present arrivals consist only of parcels of oddments, which are unsalable. The tone generally remains firm and unchanged. Local buyers are awaiting developments regarding the future of the British market. With Australasian exports to the United States diminished because of an embargo it is anticipated that a large proportion of South Africa's wools will be shipped to America. The new season's clip will be in the market in September.

At the Municipal Market on August 8 only 120 bales were offered and 30 sold. Prices ranged as follows:

Grades.	Price per pound.	Grades.	Price per pound.
	<i>Cents.</i>		<i>Cents.</i>
Ex. super snowwhites	67-71	Grassveldt, grease—Continued:	
Super snowwhites	55-61	Inferior Karoo	8-10
Inferior to good snowwhites	41-49	Coarse and colored grease	12-16
Grassveldt, grease:		Orange Free State and Transvaal:	
Ex. super long	30-33	Long, special clips	24-23
Good to super	18-22	Medium super	16-18
Short, light	12-15	Short super	14-16
Short, seedy	8-10	Heavy Transvaal	13-15
Long Karoo	18-22	Short, light	12-14
Medium Karoo	14-16	Short, heavy or seedy	10-12
Short Karoo	12-16	Basutos	15-17

Skins and Hides—Mohair Market Quiet.

The competition for skins and hides continues to be active with no change to be reported in skins. Hides are quoted a fraction lower. Shipments of skins to America are unusually heavy, while the traffic in hides has become negligible. Sun-dried hides are quoted at 25 to 26 cents a pound; dry salted at 23½ to 24 cents. For sound sheepskins 16 to 16½ cents is asked; for pelts, 12 to 12½ cents; for coarse woolled, 15 to 15½ cents. Goatskins are priced 30 to 35½ cents a pound and Angora skins 20½ to 22 cents. Cape skins bring \$1.10 to \$1.16 each.

It is difficult to understand why American buyers are content to submit to the delays occasioned by the indirect purchasing of South African mohair through the Bradford market when the facilities offered for direct shipments are as excellent as at present. Immediately following the arrival of the new season's mohair clip in May, a rush of American orders forced the prices to the highest level ever known to the South African trade. Approximately 2,000

bales were shipped during May and June. Latterly, the direct shipments of mohair have fallen off to an almost negligible amount, while Bradford interests have purchased, for American orders, practically the whole of the remainder of the 1916 clip. At present there is no inquiry for the chief grades of mohair. The London market is reported to be stagnant, and local brokers are holding for the high prices quoted early in the season. The prices per pound follow:

Grade.	Price per pound.	Grade.	Price per pound.
	<i>Cents.</i>		<i>Cents.</i>
Super summer kids.....	49-51	Mixed hair, average.....	26-28
Average summer kids.....	41-45	Mixed hair, seedy or coarse.....	18-22
Mixed or short summer kids.....	30-34	Winter hair.....	26-28
Super summer firsts.....	41-43	Locks.....	18-19
Average summer firsts.....	39-40	Basuto hair.....	28-29
Short summer firsts.....	32-34	Winter kids.....	32-34
Mixed hair, long clean.....	26-30		

Further Decline in Ostrich Feathers.

A fairly large quantity of ostrich feathers was submitted at the Public Market on August 8, consisting of good stock of all grades. The market opened firm and even showed some improvement, but later in the day a falling off caused the owners to withdraw their offerings. There are indications that Super feathers may shortly command higher prices. The total quantity sold realized \$19,612 and weighed 4,818 pounds. The quotations for unsorted parcels follow:

Grades.	Price per pound.	Grades.	Price per pound.
Primes.....	\$19.45-\$20.20	Blacks:	
Whites:		Long.....	\$3.65-\$7.30
First.....	14.60-19.45	Medium.....	1.95-2.90
Second.....	9.75-14.00	Short.....	.60-1.20
Third.....	3.05-7.30	Floss.....	2.45-3.65
Feminas:		Drabs:	
Super.....	19.45-26.75	Long.....	3.05-5.50
Good.....	10.95-13.40	Medium.....	1.45-2.45
Second.....	5.50-6.70	Short.....	.50-1.00
Third.....	1.80-4.25	Floss.....	2.45-3.65
Byocks (fancy).....	5.50-10.95	Spadonats:	
Tails:		Super.....	8.50-9.75
White.....	3.05-4.85	Light.....	3.65-7.30
Light.....	2.45-3.65	Dark.....	1.90-3.05
Dark.....	.60-1.20	Chicks.....	.25-.60

MARKET FOR FRUIT IN SIBERIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 2.]

Before the war a quantity of dried apples from California and Australia were being shipped each year to the Siberian market through Hamburg houses. It is thought that it might now be possible to develop a direct trade with the countries from which these fruits originated. The Russians are very fond of fruit and the consumption of apples in the chief centers of Siberia is large. Most of the supply for this market comes from Turkestan; but as this fruit is not always of good quality the well-to-do Russians are willing to pay a higher price for apples and other fruits of a higher grade.

RUBBER PRODUCTION IN SOUTH INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Aug. 7.]

According to a report on rubber production in South India recently prepared by the Department of Agriculture of the Madras Presidency the total area under Hevea rubber in 1914 in Cochin, Travancore, Malabar, Madras Presidency, and Coorg was 44,125 acres. The yield in Cochin was estimated at 334,000 pounds; Travancore, 1,985,460 pounds; Malabar, 103,400 pounds. No estimates of yield are given for the Madras Presidency and Coorg. The area under Ceara rubber (*Manihot Glazovii*) at the present date is stated in the report to be 12,000 acres in Coorg, 300 acres in Mysore, and 200 acres in the Shevaroy Hills.

The origin of rubber planting in South India, methods of cultivation, system of tapping, etc., are described in the report, and, as these details are the latest authentic information available on the subject, extracts from the report are here quoted:

Favorable Localities—Cultural Methods.

The first rubber estate in South India was opened in 1902 at Tattakad on the banks of the Periyar River in Travancore. This was followed in 1904 by estates in Mudakayam in South Travancore, and in 1905 by estates in Cochin. Since then many estates have been opened in these districts and at the foot of the Wyanaad and Nilgiris in the Nilambur Valley and its neighborhood.

Hevea rubber requires a hot, damp climate with a heavy, well-distributed rainfall. While it is cultivated in some of the hill districts up to elevations of 1,500 feet and more, its growth is apt to be slow. The best localities in South India are found to be the lower elevations along the West Coast, in Malabar, Cochin, and Travancore. Here the growth is rapid and trees can be tapped at 3 and 4 years of age. The tea districts are in the same localities and many estates contain both tea and rubber, the latter on the lower slopes and the former at the higher elevations. In some instances a mixed cultivation of tea and rubber has been attempted, but this is not a general success.

The land is cleared, the jungle burned, drains made, and pits prepared as in the case of tea. The rubber seed is grown in nurseries and either planted out in its first year or left in the nursery for 18 months or two years and then cut down and the stumps planted, according to individual taste or variations of climate. The trees are usually planted 20 feet by 10 feet, but it has been found that by the time they are 6 or 7 years old this is too close, and alternate trees have to be removed. Whether to plant wide at the beginning, or to plant closely and later on take out alternate trees, is an open question, and there is much to be said for both methods. The latter is the cheaper way, as it reduces the cost of weeding and some rubber is obtained from the alternate trees before they are removed.

The yield per acre in Southern India is not so large as that obtained in the Federated Malay States, but with the advancing age of the trees and the growing knowledge of manurial requirements it will no doubt increase. There are few pests of rubber to contend with and those that do exist in South India are comparatively easy to control.

Utensils Employed—Making "Biscuit" Rubber.

The early years of the industry saw not only many systems of tapping which have now been abandoned—some involving a large number of cuts high up the tree—but a large variety of tapping knives, some of them strange-looking implements with spurs and guards devised to prevent too deep cutting. Most of these have now been relegated to museums, and either a double-edged chisel is used or a slight modification of the farrier's knife.

The tapping is done in the very early morning or the late evening, when the latex flows well. In the heat of the day the latex is apt to coagulate in the cuts, and the flow soon ceases. After the allotted number of trees have been tapped the coolies go to the first tree tapped and begin to collect the latex from the cups placed to catch it. These are emptied into enameled buckets, and the latex is then conveyed to the factory. The cups are washed and placed upside down by the tree ready for use at the next round of tapping. Before each tree is tapped again the thin strip of rubber that has coagulated in the cut and

central channel is stripped off and this constitutes what is known as "scrap" rubber, one of the lower grades.

A rubber factory at which high-grade rubber is being made much resembles a dairy, the milk-like appearance of the latex adding to this illusion, as well as the precautions taken to insure absolute cleanliness. One of two methods of manufacture is generally adopted. If the estate is young, and only a few trees are being tapped, the rubber is made in the form of biscuits or sheets. The latex is put into shallow round dishes or oblong pans and a certain quantity of acetic acid added to it. This is the coagulating agent most generally used. After standing for some hours the rubber is found floating on the top of the dish in a white, spongy clot. This is removed and washed and rolled by hand and through a mangle until clean. The biscuits are placed on racks in a warm room or an artificial drier and allowed to remain there until dry. The finished biscuits are pale amber colored and transparent and for this reason are popular on the market, for their purity and freedom from dirt can be judged by holding them to the light and looking through them.

Machinery Used in Preparation of Latex—Prices.

On estates, however, where many trees are being tapped and a large volume of latex is being collected each day the process of making biscuits occupies too much factory space and labor. Machinery must be installed to deal with large quantities of latex and wet rubber at a time. This machinery is usually driven by an oil engine, but on estates with large supplies of timber water gas made from charcoal is found to be a cheaper source of energy than oil, and a suction gas engine is used. The usual process of manufacture is as follows:

The latex is strained and mixed in big tanks or baths with the requisite amount of acetic acid and allowed to coagulate. This coagulation is in some places hastened by means of a centrifugal machine. The coagulated rubber is rolled, washed, and then dried either by hanging up in a dark loft heated by hot air or in special drying machines. It is then "creped" (rolled into cloth-like strips) by heavy rollers. In its final stage it is in long strips 12 to 18 inches wide and of a light golden or pale yellow color.

The rubber is sometimes smoked while drying. This is said to add to its strength and to enhance its value, but the methods adopted can hardly be considered satisfactory as yet. There is here a big field for experiment and research. The object is to imitate as far as possible the Para rubber as made on the Amazon, which still brings the best prices. This is coagulated in the smoke of a fire and made in blocks, the latex being laid on in successive layers; and in all probability herein lies the secret of success, and no process of smoking after coagulation can imitate this. There is at present, however, a growing demand for lightly smoked ribbed sheet.

The price obtained for plantation rubber has undergone many changes during the last 10 years. In 1907 the best grades brought a maximum price of 5s. 8d. (\$1.40) a pound and a minimum of 3s. 8d. (\$0.89). In 1909 and 1910 it rushed up in a most remarkable way, creating a "boom" of unprecedented magnitude. This culminated in 1910 with plantation rubber at 12s. 8d. (\$3.08) per pound. Since then the price has steadily fallen to a maximum of 4s. 6d. (\$1.10) in 1913 and 3s. 1d. (\$0.75) in 1914. At the beginning of 1915 it had reached 2s. (\$0.49) per pound. Even at this price, however, it is a paying industry, for each year sees rubber put on the market at a lower cost of production. This cost has now been lowered to about 10d. (\$0.20) a pound, and as the trees get older and labor and machinery are better organized it will probably come down to 8d. (\$0.16). At the same time each year shows a growing demand for rubber and more and more uses to which it can be put.

Cultivation of the Ceara Tree.

Manihot Glazovii, the Ceara rubber tree, grows like a weed all over the East, but until recently it could not be made to give a large enough yield to be much taken up, though it will grow at higher elevations and under drier conditions than the more popular Hevea. It grows rapidly, making shoots of 18 feet or more from seed in a single year.

In southern India Ceara is cultivated on a plantation scale chiefly in Coorg, the Mysore State, and the Shevaroy Hills in the Madras Presidency. It was first introduced into Mysore about 1880 as a shade tree for coffee, but it proved unsuitable for this purpose and was soon cut out. Ceara was at first regarded with a good deal of undeserved contempt as a source of rubber, due to the fact that because of wrong methods of manipulation large numbers of the trees died when subjected to tapping. This difficulty has now been overcome, and

since 1904 Ceara rubber has been extensively planted. The trees can be tapped when they are 3 or 4 years old, but it is usual and better to wait until they are 6 years old.

In the early days of Ceara rubber great difficulty was experienced with the extraction of latex from the tree. When tapped in the same way as Hevea rubber the bark rotted and so many of the trees died that the industry proved unprofitable. This difficulty was overcome by making a separate cut at each tapping, a system introduced with success by Mr. Westland in Ceylon in 1909. This system was experimented with and elaborated on estates in Coorg during 1910, and it has proved there the best method of handling young trees.

The system finally adopted after numerous experiments is, first, to strip the outer bark from that section of the tree which is to be tapped (usually one-third of the circumference) and then to cut a shallow, vertical channel down the center of this area to act as a conducting channel for the latex to the collecting cup at the base of the tree. Having made this channel, a number of sloping cuts are made with either a V knife or a knife like that of a furrier on the familiar herringbone system. As a rule, six of these cuts are made, three on each side of the central channel and making an angle of about 22° with it, the cuts on each side being a foot apart.

On each occasion of tapping—usually, in Coorg, at intervals of two to four days—six fresh cuts are put in halfway between the old ones. The spacing can be easily arranged so that it takes at least two years to use up all the area barked. As the trees grow older, they can be pared in the same way that is adopted when tapping Hevea rubber.

No Coagulant Needed—Yield.

The latex is coagulated and the rubber manufactured in much the same way as is adopted with Hevea rubber. No coagulant is necessary, however, as the latex coagulates with hot water in the dark.

As regards yield, this is much smaller than in the case of Hevea, the tapping season (owing to the long periods of dry weather in the districts in which Ceara is grown) being short. It approximates one-third of a pound of rubber per tree per annum for 8-year-old trees. This variety of rubber can be grown, however, where Hevea can not, and as a subsidiary crop to coffee has prospects in the coffee districts which are being more and more realized in southern India.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball	Havre, France	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.	Bristol, England		1290 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana		
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay		C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.

* Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

* Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

* Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

EXPORTS FROM DUTCH EAST INDIES TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul B. S. Bairden, Batavia, Java.]

There was a considerable increase in the exports of a number of articles from the Dutch East Indies for the United States during the three months ended June 30, 1916, compared with the corresponding period last year. The principal articles and the quantity shipped to the United States for the two periods were as follows:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Amanuts.....pounds.....		\$2,182	Pepper:		
Bamboo hats.....number.....	\$185,720	304,167	Black.....pounds.....	\$196,520	\$2,589,060
Cassia.....pounds.....	545,390	814,387	White.....do.....		151,396
Cassia vera.....do.....		44,707	Potash.....do.....		37,471
Chemical products.....do.....		24,310	Quinine.....do.....		4,166
Cloves.....do.....	40,168	27,857	Rattan.....do.....	505,168	2,009,654
Coca.....do.....		257,400	Rubber.....do.....	2,989,782	11,365,944
Cocos.....do.....	71,314		Sago flour.....do.....	118,320	364,344
Coffee.....do.....	1,445,913	81,931	Salt-peter (chili).....do.....		20,716
Copra.....do.....		10,222,693	Shells:		
Damar.....do.....	590,325	1,067,523	Burgos.....do.....		20,784
Damar dust.....do.....	36,720	42,960	Mother-of-pearl.....do.....	58,040	111,290
Damar seeds.....do.....		89,181	Trocas.....do.....	34,663	
Fiber.....do.....	3,136,291	5,168,042	Skins:		
Gambier.....do.....		40,198	Deer.....number.....	12,506	30,375
Grass (peacocks) hats, number.....	91,290	95,606	Goat.....do.....	292,340	471,783
Gum:			Lizard.....do.....	100	
Benjamin.....pounds.....	10,967		Sheep.....do.....	28,290	69,236
Benzoin.....do.....		8,865	Snake.....do.....		133
Copal.....do.....	378,590	777,279	Taploca:		
Gutta percha.....do.....	198,013	239,867	Flake.....pounds.....	193,650	596,879
Resin.....do.....	132,932	44,817	Flour.....do.....	4,283,580	19,451,080
Hides (buffalo and cow), number.....	17,108	146,983	Residue.....do.....		68,585
Jelotong.....pounds.....	214,602	1,242,142	Seeds.....do.....		65,290
Kapok.....do.....	1,236,632	3,404,773	Siftings.....do.....		44,023
Latex.....do.....	72,786	142,132	Tea.....do.....	284,262	119,483
Hats.....number.....	50,000		Ten waste.....do.....	32,978	49,394
Nutmegs.....pounds.....	337,808	497,154	Tim.....do.....	1,779,969	13,809,380
Oil:			Wax (paraffin).....do.....	1,196,166	284,480
Citronella or essential, pounds.....	28,211	344,379	Wood:		
Coconut.....pounds.....	117,321	4,735,077	Ebony.....do.....	78,094	112,488
Kajoepesti.....liters.....	1,296	10,635	Sandal.....do.....	127,904	213,077
Kananga.....pounds.....	1,890	1,736			

SIGNAL AND RADIO-CALL LETTERS ASSIGNED.

The United States Bureau of Lighthouses announces that the signal letters "G V R S" recently have been assigned the lighthouse tender *Rose* (Seventeenth District).

Official call letters "N L S" have been assigned the radio station on board Fire Island light vessel *No. 68* (Third Lighthouse District).

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1030 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers: the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Paper, No. 22632.—An American consular officer in the West Indies transmits the name of a business man in his district who desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of paper products. Stationary and straw paper for packing purposes are particularly desired. Correspondence in English. Prices, discounts, etc., should be stated in American currency. Reference.

Machinery, etc., No. 22633.—An American consular in Brazil writes that he has received a number of inquiries for machines for making wooden heels for women's shoes; also for celluloid paste and varnish to cover the heels. Catalogues should be forwarded to American consul at once. Catalogues in Portuguese preferred.

Vanilla, etc., No. 22634.—An American consular officer in the West Indies writes that a dealer in vanilla and "vanillon" desires to correspond direct with manufacturers of vanilla extract with reference to the sale of the coming crop which will be harvested in December. The dealer expects to have at least 2,000 pounds of each of these products for sale. Correspondence may be in English but French is preferred.

Fire apparatus, etc., No. 22635.—An American consular officer in Greece reports that a municipality in his district is in the market for a hand-driven or motor-driven fire engine; also for pumping apparatus or machinery for emptying sewage from cesspools of private dwellings.

Magnesite, No. 22636.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Australia desires to receive orders for magnesite. Analysis shows 96 per cent of carbonate of magnesia.

Steel products, etc., No. 22637.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a mechanic in his district would like to make connections with American manufacturers of pipes, valves, rods, plates, and general supplies made of iron, steel, and other metals, for a general machine shop, specializing in the manufacture of hydraulic pumps. Quotations are also desired on scrap materials which it is desired to ship to the United States in exchange for new materials and supplies. Correspondence in Portuguese.

General representation, No. 22638.—A business man from Italy, now in the United States, desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters interested in developing their export trade in Italy. No particular line is specified.

Wolfram and copper mines, etc., No. 22639.—An American consular officer in Argentina reports that a business man in his district desires to secure the cooperation of American capital for the development on a large scale of wolfram and copper mines in that country. Communication is also desired with American buyers of wolfram. Correspondence in Spanish.

Automobiles, No. 22640.—A firm in the United States writes the Bureau that its agent in Spain wishes to secure the agency for an automobile retailing from \$700 to \$900. His organization covers the whole of Spain. He wishes to buy a sample machine at once.

Rice, textiles, etc., No. 22641.—An American consular officer in Venezuela transmits the name of a firm of commission agents which desires to represent American exporters of rice, lard, toys, cotton prints and drills, spool thread, and printing paper. Correspondence in English.

Nails, wood screws, etc., No. 22642.—An export house on the Pacific coast of the United States writes the Bureau that it has received orders from the Orient for 5,000 gross flat head iron wood screws, elastic webbing, borax for use in enameling, and nails packed in casks containing one picul (i. e., 133½ pounds). Quotations with statement as to date of delivery, etc., desired. References.

Automobile agency, No. 22643.—A man in Cuba writes the Bureau that he contemplates entering into the automobile business and desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of motor cars not already represented in that island. References.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 238

Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 10

1916

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ECUADOR MARKET REPORT FOR AUGUST.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Sept. 8.]

The July price of \$12.71 per 100 pounds for arriba superior cacao was maintained by the Agricultural Association during August, as that body received and shipped most of the cacao, the exporters buying only what was absolutely necessary to fill orders. The shipments for the month were: To France, 1,443,567 pounds; to Spain, 512,647 pounds; to the United States, 5,200,278 pounds; total, 7,156,492 pounds.

The coffee market was firm, with prices advancing, first grade being quoted at \$7.63 and second grade at \$7.20. The shipments were as follows, in pounds: To Chile, 991,885; Franco, 61,815; Italy, 102,935; Panama, 41,085; Spain, 56,600; total, 1,254,320 pounds.

During the month the rubber market was weak, with prices declining, quotations being \$23.30 for maromas and \$19.07 for hojas. There were no shipments during August.

The hide market was also weak, with a tendency for a decline in prices, quotations being \$17.80 for serranos, \$16.95 for criollos, and \$8.48 for picados. Exports for the month amounted to 155,024 pounds—9,557 pounds to France and 145,467 pounds to the United States.

The tagua trade was very quiet, the price of \$0.85 for shelled nuts being quoted. France took 41,072 pounds and the United States 371,957 pounds, a total of 413,029 pounds.

Ecuador's imports during August amounted to 39,716 packages, weighing 3,567 tons, and were from the following countries: From Chile, 201 packages; Cuba, 2; France, 1,128; Italy, 539; Japan, 53; Netherlands, 2; Peru, 61; Spain, 3,933; United Kingdom, 9,194; and United States, 24,603. The rate of exchange on the United States was 236.

Thrashing machines to the number of 627 were imported into Argentina during 1915, while in the first quarter of 1916 only 7 were imported.

INCREASE IN SHANGHAI'S EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, Aug. 28.]

The exports from Shanghai to the United States, according to invoices certified at this consulate general, increased in value from \$12,448,881 for the first six months of 1915 to \$17,885,089 for the same period this year, or a gain of \$5,436,208. Among the items showing increases were goatskins, \$1,890,005; raw silk, \$1,705,556; waste silk, \$523,088; hides, \$772,066; albumen and egg yolk, \$531,960; and indigo and dyes, \$358,340.

There were no shipments of gold from Shanghai during the first half of 1916, although for the corresponding period for 1915 such shipments amounted to \$2,202,204. Thus the actual increase in Shanghai's export trade to the United States may be placed at approximately \$7,000,000 for the six months ended June 30, 1916. This increase is much more than the entire declared exports in recent years, excepting the year 1915, which showed an increase of \$14,450,427 against 1914. The increase of the year 1914 was \$1,591,816, while 1913 only showed an advance of \$287,629 over 1912.

Principal Exports.

The following table shows the principal articles, with their quantity and value, invoiced for the United States for the six months:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.		Jan.-June, 1916.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Antimony:				
Crude..... pounds..	1,290,000	\$130,357	1,215,837	\$237,122
Regulus..... do.....	3,196,000	711,200	1,354,400	\$57,908
Antique porcelain.....	9,259			102,605
Breadstuffs: Bran, wheat..... tons.....	3,250	53,503		
Bristles..... pounds.....	157,890	90,671	182,262	93,220
Chemicals:				
Albumen..... do.....	721,383	275,073	1,024,018	599,251
Gall nuts..... do.....	100,000	7,673	687,898	96,246
Indigo and aniline dyes..... do.....	674,186	496,847	580,838	\$55,187
Licorice root..... do.....			1,064,237	66,020
Musk..... ounces.....	8,229	70,819	5,057	45,840
Soda benzoate..... pounds.....			12,394	54,026
Turmeric..... do.....			1,158,686	56,043
Cotton, raw..... do.....	717,306	65,427	422,659	64,027
Earthenware: Chinaware.....		14,236		18,632
Eggs:				
Fresh..... dozens.....	492,900	77,708	192,550	27,396
Frozen..... pounds.....			300,000	36,334
Egg yolk..... do.....	38,475	14,476	1,338,420	271,258
Feathers and downs..... do.....	416,963	60,399	1,169,170	296,852
Fibers:				
China grass..... tons.....	66	12,032		
Vegetable..... do.....			389	69,499
Grease and oils: Vegetable tallow..... pounds.....			1,347,070	98,738
Fruits and nuts:				
Peanuts—				
Shelled..... do.....	790,506	24,262	166,508	7,191
Unshelled..... do.....	609,529	81,731	510,539	22,340
Walnuts—				
Shelled..... do.....	6,125	401	511,911	45,202
Unshelled..... do.....	267,812	10,326	4,940	606
Furs, dressed: Dogmats.....		12,964		14,539
Furs, undressed:				
Civet cat.....		2,724		81,617
Deer and doe.....		73,791		111,734
Goat.....		982,063		2,872,068
Sheep and lamb.....		91,416		123,026
Gold:				
Chinese bars.....		2,101,684		
Yens.....		100,520		
Hair, human hair nets.....		783		50,602

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.		Jan.-June, 1916.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Hides:				
Buffalo--				
Salted	pieces .. 2,550	\$18,695	9,914	\$83,884
Dry	pounds .. 208,602		532,811	
Dry	pieces .. 8,547	44,143	54,671	207,404
Dry	pounds .. 303,751		1,535,191	
Cow--				
Salted	pieces .. 17,170	111,207	47,599	274,527
Dry	pounds .. 665,155		1,458,147	
Dry	pieces .. 109,214	457,684	236,972	748,600
Dry	pounds .. 1,879,966		2,394,703	
Household effects	tons .. 1,300	16,020		16,904
Iron, pig		30,450	4,783	79,194
Meat and dairy products: Sausage casings		27,019		73,466
Oils, vegetable:				
Bean	pounds .. 290,880	15,233	279,925	26,512
Castor oil	do ..		775,361	62,511
Cotton seed	do ..	5,544,671	9,208,311	578,280
Peanut	gallons .. 312	166	162,434	96,842
Feeds, sorghum		18,564		
Silk:				
Raw	pounds .. 1,213,370	3,346,351	1,304,951	5,051,907
Waste	do .. 341,479	126,635	1,606,626	649,723
Wild	do .. 621,274	569,442	484,943	754,028
Pongees		136,709		273,019
Silver, Mexican dollars		167,010		196,476
Straw braid		144,215		94,220
Tea	pounds .. 1,653,131	245,013	922,244	153,803
Wool, sheep	do .. 5,806,511	1,022,735	4,451,331	936,778
All other articles		165,711		700,843
Total		12,448,881		17,885,080

PAPER-MAKING INDUSTRY IN RUSSIA.

[British Paper Trade Journal.]

The improvement in the conditions of the Russian paper-making industry, which has latterly been noted, is maintained, but there are still complaints of the shortage of raw materials, chemicals, etc. The situation, however, is considered to be slowly but surely readjusting itself, and hopes are entertained that before long something approaching to normal conditions will prevail.

A considerable increase in the export of pitprops, pulp wood, etc., from Archangel during 1915 is reported, the quantity being 34,006 cubic sazhen, compared with 21,269 cubic sazhen in 1914 (11,648,755 cubic feet in 1915 and 7,285,696 cubic feet in 1914).

Developments are taking place in the Siberian paper industry. In addition to the construction of the Gorochoff paper factory, a similar enterprise is being organized for Krasnoyarsk or Irkutsk; the paper-making works of I. E. Yatess is being formed into a company; the Volojod and Tver district council are contemplating the erection of paper works in the northern timber areas of Russia and Siberia, near the town of Taiga. According to a report by M. V. I. Minaieff, presented to the Society of Engineers of Tomsk, the annual consumption of paper in Siberia amounts to 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 poods (36,000 or 54,000 short tons) and is increasing. As there should be no difficulty in regard to the provision of rags and mechanical and chemical pulp from local sources, the prospects for the paper-making industry are very promising.

HUMAN-HAIR TRADE IN HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 28.]

The trade in human hair in the Far East has become so depressed that hair experts in Hongkong predict the practical extinction of the trade within a short time. The demand for most grades of hair is so weak and the supply of extra grades at present prices so small that most of the smaller factories in Hongkong for cleaning, sorting, and preparing the hair have been closed or are being closed. Some of the establishments have been operated at a loss pending a readjustment of the trade, but the prospects at present are so unfavorable that the industry will not long survive present conditions.

Reached Its Height Six Years Ago.

The trade in human hair out of Hongkong reached its heights in 1910, when the United States took hair to the value of \$695,137 direct, in addition to a large amount, probably as much more, that went by way of Europe. At that time the product was among the chief items of the colony's export trade. The preparation of the hair in various stages became one of the leading industries, and a large number of factories were established for the purpose, most of them being small concerns which cleaned hair on a commission basis or disposed of their product to middlemen, who collected it in large quantities for export. Gradually changing styles in hair dressing in the United States and Europe led to a falling off in the strong demand for the better grade hair and export trade changed accordingly.

New York has continued to take nearly all the long lengths of assorted hair. The demand in Europe changed to a demand for short lengths, stubbs, combings, and waste, which were used for mattress making and similar purposes. With the advent of the war this European demand has fallen away, and at the same time the demand for the long grades of hair in the United States has changed. The general demand for hair has been so weak that Chinese brokers have given little attention to it, and the supply of hair has fallen off accordingly. Unless there is soon a revival of the trade, the organization of collectors, workers, and brokers on which it depends in Hongkong will be lost and a subsequent revival of the trade will be difficult.

CANADIAN IMPORTS OF AMERICAN PRINTED COTTON GOODS.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 3.]

An increase in the imports of printed cottons into Canada, especially from the United States, is shown in the following comparison of the yardage and value for the quarter ended June 30, 1916, and the corresponding periods the preceding two years:

Country.	1914		1915		1916	
	Yards.	Value.	Yards.	Value.	Yards.	Value.
United States.....	4,073,608	\$424,109	5,772,629	\$541,346	12,516,113	\$1,448,413
Great Britain.....	7,042,908	749,373	6,026,617	611,015	9,306,284	1,120,294
France.....	74,784	14,022	10,908	4,373	2,634	444
Japan.....	118,660	19,806	24,602	2,019	26,978	2,376
Other countries.....	44,132	6,463	25,959	4,105	38,111	12,963
Total.....	11,354,052	1,213,863	11,860,715	1,102,858	21,960,120	2,583,409

NEW BRUNSWICK HOUSING AND HARBOR PLANS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 15.]

At the recent convention of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities the president of the organization urged that a commission be appointed to study the housing problem in cities, in preparation for future immigration as well as for present needs. He suggested that such a body should visit various American cities and towns to get ideas as to the building of homes for workingmen. The subject of constructing a provincial highway by means of bonds taken by the various towns was also mentioned.

Attention was given especially to the development of St. Croix Harbor at a point a few miles southeast of St. Stephen. The project would greatly benefit this consular district. The harbor would have the advantages of shelter and tranquillity. In a succession of outer points to break the violence of storms it has peculiar natural advantages. It is landlocked on three sides, with a 400-foot width of passage in about 14 fathoms of water.

No Dredging Required for Navigation.

The harbor is really a small bay off the St. Croix River, at a point where the latter is 2,400 feet wide and 40 to 240 feet deep. No dredging would be required to bring large boats 25 miles up the river from Eastport, Me. On account of the distance from the sea there is less fog than in ocean ports, and it is said that even at lowest tide any ships now entering Halifax or St. John Harbor could enter here as well. The Canadian Pacific Railway is now in operation only a few miles from the proposed site and could be extended without great expense. It is claimed that the harbor's freedom from ice throughout the year gives it a special advantage over other local Canadian ports.

EXPORTS FROM FERNIE TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul W. E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 2.]

There was a large increase in the exports from the Fernie consular district for the United States during the first nine months of 1916 compared with the same period of the preceding three years as shown by the following table which gives the shipments by quarters:

Period.	1913	1914	1915	1916
First quarter	\$533,964	\$486,287	\$247,342	\$789,681
Second quarter	541,186	504,645	304,861	1,467,398
Third quarter	489,236	658,501	654,016	1,241,800
Total	1,564,386	1,649,433	1,206,219	3,498,888

During September, 1916, one of the largest match manufacturing concerns in the United States imported from the Fernie consular district 1,178,400 feet of white-pine lumber valued at \$21,623.

After November 1, 1916, exports of copper from this district will virtually cease, as the British Columbia Copper Co., of Greenwood, British Columbia, has made arrangements with the smelter at Trail, British Columbia, to refine its metal. Exports of copper to the United States for the first nine months of 1916 amounted to 4,741,861 pounds, valued at \$1,320,468.

MEXICO OFFERS MARKET FOR HANDKERCHIEFS.

[Consul Wm. W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Aug. 31.]

In the Vera Cruz consular district the men and women of the better classes as a rule purchase imported handkerchiefs. Moreover, all the finer grades of drawn-work handkerchiefs that come from the interior of Mexico are made of imported materials, the best being manufactured out of Irish linen. The same is true of the Spanish lace handkerchiefs in use here, the lace being imported from Spain in the form of hollow squares and the centers being filled in here with imported linen by women who make them for their own use.

Some printed and colored cotton handkerchiefs of attractive design are made in the textile factories of this consular district, especially in Nogales, a suburb of Orizaba, and are bought by a few better-class people, particularly men. On the other hand, the peasant class can afford to buy only handkerchiefs of domestic manufacture. Those in use in this section are principally gay-colored bandanas made in Nogales.

British Manufactures Popular—New Tariff.

Prior to the European war the United Kingdom held the largest share of the trade, being able to furnish handkerchiefs in various qualities at attractive prices. British textile manufactures of all kinds, in fact, have long been in high favor, which, in the case of the men's furnishing houses, has amounted almost to a prejudice. Comparatively speaking, almost no American handkerchiefs were imported either by rail or water from the United States by dealers in this consular district, the value of such imports during 1913 being but \$114, as contrasted with \$120,515 worth from the United Kingdom, \$5,182 from France, \$4,920 from Germany, and \$7,922 from "other countries."

A new tariff to go into effect on November 1, 1916, abolishing the 10 per cent surtax, mentions handkerchiefs specifically, as follows:

No. 347. Cotton handkerchiefs with cotton or linen lace, even when embroidered with silk. Each, 30 centavos (14.94 cents U. S. currency at the normal exchange of 49.8 cents to the peso).

No. 400. Linen handkerchiefs with cotton or linen lace, even when embroidered with silk. Each, 60 centavos (29.88 cents).

Opportunity for American Goods.

Although the revolutionary disturbances have exercised a depressing influence on the business world here and have adversely affected the import trade, especially through the resulting unfavorable rates of international exchange, two factors will prove of benefit to American exporters who try to introduce their handkerchiefs into the Vera Cruz consular district. The textile factories in this section of the country have been experiencing labor difficulties and, temporarily at least, will not be able to turn out their normal supplies of handkerchiefs. The opportunities for American manufacturers, however, lie not so much in the sale of ordinary cotton handkerchiefs, such as are made in Mexico, as in the trade in good-grade, pure-white cotton and linen handkerchiefs for both men and women, such as were formerly imported from Europe. There is no longer direct transatlantic steamship communication with the British Isles

or Germany and very little with France. In contrast, American handkerchief manufacturers may send shipments from New York by the Ward Line and the Compañía Transatlántica Española and from New Orleans and Texas City by the Wolvin Line and the Compañía Mexicana de Navegación.

Correspondence in Spanish is preferred, but English is understood by most of the firms in the port of Vera Cruz. Prices may be quoted either f. o. b. or c. i. f. Sales may possibly be made through three or four large commission houses but perhaps more especially through direct shipments to importers who engage in a retail business. Their addresses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. [Refer to file No. 80302.]

METHODS OF MARKING EXPORT GOODS SUGGESTED.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Sept. 16.]

The British Government Board of Trade Journal publishes suggestions as to marking packing cases, taken from a memorandum issued by the Rhodesia Munitions and Resources Committee. Possibly the suggestion may be of interest to American firms. It says:

It is thought that the attention of British manufacturers might be drawn to the benefits derived from identification marks being placed on three sides of packing cases instead of on one side only, as is the existing custom. It is found in practice that when several cases are delivered at one time the identification marks often can not be found unless cases are turned over or adjacent cases removed. In two instances where very large consignments of mining machinery were being delivered the purchasers had required identification marks on three sides of each packing case, and this resulted in a very considerable saving of expense, because a minimum amount of handling was necessary when the cases were required.

Reforms are possible in the method of putting identification marks on metal parts which do not require the protection of packing. The usual method is to paint or stencil these. This would be quite satisfactory if such marks were indelible, but inferior paint is generally used. The result is that contact with other goods in transit and climatic conditions cause such marks to become obliterated or unrecognizable, and this often involves considerable expense to the purchaser.

A further point which in many instances requires more attention from United Kingdom manufacturers is the thorough protection of bright metal parts to prevent rust.

CATALOGUES FOR GUADELOUPE.

[Consul Henry T. Wilcox, Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Sept. 21]

The Basse Terre consulate wishes to call the attention of exporters and manufacturers in the United States to the fact that catalogues intended for Guadeloupe should not be sent by parcel post, for when this is done the catalogues are turned over to the customs authorities and are subject to duties amounting to 8 cents a pound. On the other hand, catalogues sent as printed matter by regular mail are delivered free of duty.

As far as possible all correspondence with the inhabitants of the island and all advertising matter sent them should be in French, for very few of the people understand English. This office has a well-equipped reading room, which is open to all persons interested in American goods, and is always pleased to receive and place on file trade journals and catalogues in both English and French.

MARKET FOR AMMUNITION IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Vice Consul Eugene Nabel, Amsterdam, Aug. 25.]

Holland offers a good field for the sale of cartridges and shells. I have personally interviewed two of the largest ammunition importers and dealers, and am informed by them that there exists a fair and increasing demand especially for the following articles: Cartridges for 25, 32, and 38 automatic pistols; rifle cartridges, 351 and 401 Auto, 44-40 Winchester; target cartridges, caliber 22; revolver cartridges, caliber 32 and 38 S. and W., also 320 and 380 (32 and 38 short, respectively); cheap unloaded cartridge shells, suitable for reloading.

Most of the importers buy their supplies, as needed, on own account. Terms are cash against documents, with 2 per cent discount, f. o. b. New York. I am told that certain American firms usually appoint agents in different countries for the sale of their products. These agents receive an adequate stock on consignment, with bill stating the exact cost to them. The export discount allowed them ranges from 50 to 60 per cent on list or catalogue prices. The agent pays all freight and insurance charges from New York, as well as the import duty and all advertising charges, and adds to the total cost of the shipment 10 or 15 per cent, which is his profit.

Dutch Import Duty and Conditions of Sale.

An Amsterdam dealer desires to import cartridges and shells on a consignment basis and conditions such as have been stated. The Dutch import duty on ammunition is 5 per cent. Its sale is entirely free in this country, with no Government restriction. It is impossible to give an estimate of the total imports of ammunition into Holland, as Government statistics include them under the heading of metal goods.

There are said to be more than 100 sporting clubs using ammunition in Holland, but they never import their supplies direct, obtaining them from importers and dealers.

The largest journals devoted to sporting, in which considerable advertising is done, are: Nederlandsche Jager & Honden Sport, Deventer; Nederlandsche Sport, Warmoesstraat, Amsterdam.

[A list of importers and dealers in ammunition in the Netherlands may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80442.]

[Consul General Soren Listoe, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 29.]

Scarcity of Sporting Ammunition in Country.

A dealer in and importer of cartridges and small firearms in Rotterdam states that there is a scarcity of sporting ammunition in this country, as it has been impossible to obtain any supplies from Belgium or Germany, the former sources, and on account of the practice in the United States of selling through agents in Brussels and Hamburg it has been impossible also to obtain ammunition from most of the manufacturers in that country. The firm mentioned would like very much to establish relations with American manufacturers.

Terms usually granted are 90 days net, or 30 days with 2 per cent discount for cash.

Packing in tin plate is considered best for over-sea transportation of ammunition.

[The name and address of the firm in Rotterdam mentioned in this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district, or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80430.]

QUALITIES OF KERRY CATTLE.

[Vice Consul Charles C. Broy, Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 20.]

Inquiries have been received from the United States regarding the qualities of Kerry cattle, and their fitness for shipment to that country. Information has been obtained by the American consulate from those who are engaged in the breeding of cattle of that class. Some references are also made to Dexter cattle in the correspondence that has been conducted. Important facts are presented in a pamphlet that has been prepared by one experienced breeder of Kerry and Dexter cattle and their crosses. One man wrote to the American consulate as follows:

The Kerry has not been as extensively shipped to the United States as the Dexter, but I can not see why the Kerry should not do well in the States. The fancy for the Dexter is more a matter of taste than due to any want of utility in the Kerry; as compared with the Dexter, the Kerry would also be cheaper by at least £5 a head than the Dexter.

From 2½ to 3 gallons or 25 to 30 pounds of milk would be a fair average for a Kerry, and taking the amount of food they consume, this is good. A Kerry may give up to 4 gallons or 40 pounds a day. The milk as a rule is richer than that of the ordinary colored cow of the country, and the butter of very firm texture. There is no breed of cattle so free from tuberculous as they are. The Dexter is also very free on this point.

I fear rates at present would be high for shipping, on account of war risks. Prices would depend on whether pedigree or nonpedigree cattle were required. Pedigree Kerry cows on second to fourth calf would cost on rail here (say Listowel) £30 (\$146) each; heifers in calf, £25; nonpedigree Kerry cows, second to fourth calf, £22; heifers in calf, £20.

Dexters could be put down at about £8 to £10 each class dearer all around.

The prices quoted were for cattle in the spring of 1916. Since that time they have increased in price about £2 a head.

[The pamphlet mentioned in this dispatch may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 80765.]

COPPER COMPANY PLANS EXPERIMENTAL MILL.

[Consul W. E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 27.]

The British Columbia Copper Co. is installing a pumping plant to elevate the water from the Similkameen River to a distributing point 1,700 feet above the river, through a pipe line 6,000 feet long. The equipment will consist of triplex pumps, and the pump line will be composed of 4-inch high-pressure hydraulic pipe in the lower station and steel pipe of 6-inch diameter at the discharge.

The water will be used to supply the mine, the camp, and a 50-ton experimental mill, which will be used for the working out of a concentration process preliminary to the erection of a 2,000-ton plant on the Similkameen River.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR IN PERU.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Aug. 25.]

Recently published statistics on the production of sugar in Peru shows that in 1914 the average production per hectare of 2.471 acres was 10.193-metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds (equivalent to 4.547 short tons per acre), while in 1915 this average had increased to 10.378 tons (4.629 short tons per acre), due, do doubt, to the introduction of improved machinery on several of the larger plantations. In the Santa Valley, where the production of cane per hectare is as good or better than that of many other sugar regions of Peru, the sugar yield is but 7 metric tons per hectare (3.123 short tons per acre). This is probably due to the fact that in the Santa Valley there is still being used an old mill which was erected in 1874 and which has been but little improved since that date. In the Chicama Valley, where are located the fine modern mills of Casa Grande, Cardavio, and Laredo, the production reaches the unusual figure of 13.506 metric tons per hectare (6.025 short tons per acre).

The area suitable for the growing of sugar cane on the west coast of Peru is limited only by the available supply of water for irrigation. It is understood that several projects for the irrigation of sugar lands are being studied, especially in the Santa and Jequeteneque Valleys, while in the Chicama Valley the supply of subterranean water has been tapped and the use of centrifugal pumps for bringing it to the surface has made it possible to increase the area under cultivation.

During the years 1914 and 1915 the sugar of Peru was disposed of to the following countries in the proportions indicated:

Destination.	1914	1915	Destination.	1914	1915
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>		<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Chile.....	29.51	35.93	Bolivia.....	1.02	1.65
United States.....	9.99	21.89	Consumed locally or stored.....	23.53	13.73
Great Britain.....	29.30	17.80	Total.....	100.00	100.00
Canada.....	6.65				
Spain.....		4.17			

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Sept. 7.]

Production and Exports for Half Decade.

An official review of the sugar industry of Peru for the past five years discloses an advance of 47 per cent in production and one of 78 per cent in exports during the half decade. The figures are:

Year.	Production, in metric tons.				Exportation, in metric tons.			
	White and granulated.	Muscovado.	Chancaca.	Total.	White and granulated.	Muscovado.	Chancaca.	Total.
1911.....	128,071	21,936	1,026	151,033	104,763	18,927	.....	123,690
1912.....	(b)	(b)	(b)	192,754	(b)	(b)	(b)	147,419
1913.....	153,568	28,775	1,611	183,954	121,031	20,495	1,375	142,901
1914.....	200,005	27,493	457	228,054	152,381	24,026	263	176,670
1915.....	232,616	28,259	1,965	262,840	193,100	24,227	930	218,257

^a Includes 27,500 tons of sugar, the estimated production of those estates that did not furnish returns in 1911.

^b Data not available.

The exportation of such a large proportion of the total production (69 per cent in 1911, 76 per cent in 1912, 77 per cent in 1913 and 1914, and 84 per cent in 1915) has led to efforts by the Constitutional Party to secure legislation limiting the shipment of all kinds of sugar to 75 per cent of the annual output, it being claimed that 66,000 metric tons a year are needed for domestic consumption. (This is more than 2 ounces a day per capita on a basis of 3,000,000 population.) It is thought that such action would result in the lowering of the present high prices of sugar, these being 9 and 7 cents a pound for first and second grades, respectively.

GALALITH IN GERMANY.

[Consul General Henry H. Morgan, Hamburg, Aug. 30.]

Under the name "galalith," a bonelike substance similar in many respects to celluloid, has been on the German market for some time. Its production is protected in Germany by several patents issued at various times and bearing in the Imperial Patent Register Nos. 115681, 127942, 141309, and 147994. It has not yet reached an importance that warrants its mention in the German official statistics, but that the production is increasing is shown by the exports to the United States alone, which have increased from year to year. In the past four years they were: 1912, \$10,769; 1913, \$12,007; 1914, \$16,395; 1915 (first six months), \$6,274.

Process Used in Manufacture.

Galalith is manufactured from casein by means of formaldehyde. A solution of casein is obtained by treating skimmed milk with caustic alkali or carbonate of alkali. This solution is clarified and the casein precipitated by means of acids and then filtered. The water is then partly extracted by pressure and the product dried very slowly. The drying process extends over a period of several weeks. The casein plates thus obtained are thoroughly saturated with formaldehyde and dried again. The product obtained is somewhat transparent, of a yellowish-white color, and very similar to horn.

If a colored or mottled product is desired, coloring matter is added to the solution of casein, or powdered cork, soot, wood pulp, earth, etc., are kneaded into the precipitated casein.

Acetate of lead is also used in the precipitating process. The specific weight of galalith is 1.317 to 1.35; the hardness is 2.5, according to the Mohs scale.

Less Inflammable Than Celluloid.

Galalith is an excellent insulating material, and may be utilized either in a cold state or after it has been softened by using hot water. It is free from odor and is not so inflammable as celluloid, but is never entirely transparent, and it is not possible to manufacture it in very thin sheets.

The largest manufacturer of galalith in Germany is the Internationale Galalith Gesellschaft, at Harburg. This company recently made inquiries at the American consulate regarding imports of skimmed milk from the United States into Germany for the purpose of manufacturing galalith.

PURCHASES OF WATER AND GAS METERS IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 18.]

The waterworks of Buenos Aires are owned by Argentina and operated under a commission known as Obras Sanitarias de la Nación, the address of which is Calle Charcas 1840, Buenos Aires.

The meters generally in use are those manufactured by the Meinelcke & Siemens Cia. of Germany and the Compañía de Contadores de Agua of Paris. They are of the turbine type. The annual requirements are about 2,000. These meters are purchased in lots of 2,000 or 3,000, and the authorities call for bids. The last call by the Obras Sanitarias for such bids was in February, 1916, and the quantity was 3,560 meters of the turbine or paddle type of the following sizes: Total of 1,500 meters, 0.15m (0.59 inch) in diameter; 1,500 of 0.020m (0.79 inch) diameter; 400 of 0.025m (0.98 inch) diameter; 100 of 0.030m (1.18 inches) diameter; 20 of 0.040m (1.58 inches) diameter; 20 of 0.050m (1.97 inches) diameter; 20 of 0.040m (1.58 inches) diameter; 20 of 0.050m (1.97 inches) diameter; 20 of 0.080m (3.15 inches) diameter.

Tests to Which Meters are Subjected.

A quantity approximating 5 per cent of the total number of meters in each lot is taken for testing purposes. These tests are:

(a) Each meter shall register when it is submitted to a water pressure of 3 kilos per square centimeter (42.7 pounds per square inch), when passing a minimum of 30 liters (1.06 cubic feet) per hour.

(b) A pressure of the water entering the meter varying from 300 grams to 3 kilos per square centimeter (4.27 to 42.7 pounds per square inch) is applied. The consumption indicated by the meter should not differ more than 1½ per cent from the actual quantity of water passed.

(c) The following quantities of water, under a pressure of 3 kilos per square centimeter (42.7 pounds per square inch), are passed through the meter without interruption: Meter of 0.015 m. (0.59 inch) diameter, 4,000 cubic meters (141,260 cubic feet); meter of 0.020 m. (0.79 inch) diameter, 9,000 cubic meters (317,830 cubic feet); meter of 0.025 m. (0.98 inch) diameter, 15,000 cubic meters (529,450 cubic feet); meter of 0.030 m. (1.18 inches) diameter, 26,000 cubic meters (918,180 cubic feet); meter of 0.040 m. (1.58 inches) diameter, 36,000 cubic meters (1,271,320 cubic feet); meter of 0.050 m. (1.97 inches) diameter, 63,000 cubic meters (2,224,810 cubic feet). After this test has been made tests (a) and (b) are repeated, each meter passing a minimum of 50 liters (1.77 cubic feet) per hour, under which conditions the difference of the reading of the meter from the actual quantity of water passed shall not exceed 2 per cent.

Representative Must Have Full Power.

The call for bids is published in the official bulletin of the Argentine Republic, 30 to 60 days being allowed from the date of publication to the time of closing the bids. Firms desiring to bid must have representatives with full power established in this country. The payment for such meters is generally made 80 per cent 8 days after each lot of meters has been certified as satisfactory, and 20 per cent 2 months afterward.

Most of the water companies operated in the principal provincial cities are backed by English capital, and practically all of their equipment and supplies are purchased in England through their directorate or through established purchasing agents in London.

The gas in the city of Buenos Aires is supplied by one large English company known as the Compañía Primitiva de Gas, Calle

Aleina 1169, Buenos Aires. This company manufactures its product by a coal-gas process. To-day there are 103,000 meters in use of the English standard, 75 per cent of which are of the wet-meter type and 25 per cent of the dry-meter type.

All Gas Meters Made by One Company.

There is an English company, the Gas & Mechanical Specialty Co. (Ltd.), Calle Costa Rica 4458, Buenos Aires, which manufactures all of the gas meters used by the local company. These are tested by the English standard—testing the valves and excess pressure against a holder for capacity, allowing 1 per cent either way.

The gas companies in the smaller cities are operated on a similar basis as the Compañía Primitiva de Gas, and use a similar type of meter. Practically all these companies are controlled by English capital.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pfe, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.	Bristol, England.....		1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Cham, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana.....		
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay.....		C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 402, Customhouse, New York City.

* Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

* Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

* Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

COMPETITION AVOIDED IN PORTO RICAN UTILITIES.

[Harwood Hull, correspondent, San Juan, Sept. 30.]

The Insular Government, through action taken by the Executive Council, which acts as the public-service commission of the island, has adopted a policy of refusing to grant franchises to public utilities that might engage in cut-throat competition.

The Executive Council has refused an application of the Porto Rico Railway, Light & Power Co., for permission to extend a transmission line to and distributing lines in the city of Arecibo, which already has electric light and power furnished by a municipal plant.

WOMEN STUDENTS IN GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

[Consul Charles S. Winans, Nuremberg, Sept. 5.]

The women students enrolled at the different German universities for the summer semester of 1916 numbered 5,460, or nearly twice the number enrolled in 1911. Female students in 1916 constituted 10.5 per cent of the total student body, compared with 4.8 per cent five years ago.

During the past five years feminine interest in mathematics, natural science, and medicine has greatly increased; more than one-fourth of the women students now are enrolled for the last-named course, compared with about 20 per cent five years ago, or, in actual numbers, 1,394 compared with 582. The students of mathematics and natural science number 1,011, compared with 504 five years ago. In philology and history the number has risen since 1911 from 1,563 to 2,654; in political science and agriculture, from 67 to 213; law, from 39 to 93; Protestant theology, from 5 to 14; pharmacy, from 8 to 22; and dentistry, from 27 to 58.

Since the outbreak of the war the enrollment of female students has made particular strides in the Prussian universities (Berlin, Frankfort-on-Main, Marburg, and Halle) and also in the university at the Bavarian capital, Munich. The increase at Heidelberg and Tübingen has been small, and the attendance at Strassburg and Freiburg i. B. has declined slightly.

BRITISH TRADE COMBINE REPORTED.

[Light Car and Cyclecar, London, England.]

An important item of news is the statement that several big munition concerns are about to pool their capital to the extent of £30,000,000 (\$145,995,000), and sink their identity in a combine. That this will embrace a section of the motor trade is almost certain, and, as the object is to combat foreign trade after the war, its influence upon the motor industry is obvious. It will be suggested that such a pooling of interests will enable the problem of the cheap car with a gigantic output to be tackled as has never before been possible, but so far as we can ascertain at present it does not seem to any appreciable extent to affect the manufacture of light cars, which is likely to be the biggest side of the motor industry after the war. It is early yet to speculate on the ultimate result, however, and the scheme will be watched with the greatest interest.

The manufacturers of this country will undoubtedly be faced with some very big problems after the war, and it may be that we shall have to Americanize our manufacturing methods.

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 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
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 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
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 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

NEW OIL FIELDS IN CHILE.

Recent discoveries of oil in the Territory of Magellan have created much interest, for heretofore Chilean oil has been found only in the northern and central sections of that country. The National Association of Manufacturers (Sociedad de Fomento Fabril) in a recent Boletín states that geological experts from various parts of the world have made tests of the oil in Magellan, and pronounce it equal in quality to that found in Argentina, and the extent of the deposits appears to rival that of the famous Comodoro Rivadavia fields.

Commenting on the prospective working on an extensive scale of the oil lands in Chile, the Manufacturers' Association presents the need of legislation to regulate the well-drilling, with a view to preventing the inundation of the oil deposits by subterranean streams. The association also advocates legislation to restrict the owning and operating of oil wells to native Chileans or to foreigners settled in the country with Chilean families. The greater part of the oil lands in Magellan belong to the Government, and the association recommends that the Government retain a royalty of 10 per cent on all the oil produced from the lands it sells to private producers. Such a royalty is frequently stipulated by individual owners, and it is urged that the right to a percentage should be legalized and extended to all proprietors of oil fields.

ANGLO-ECUADORIAN MONEY-ORDER TREATY.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Sept. 12.]

The postal money-order treaty recently entered into by Ecuador and Great Britain is the first convention of the kind made by Ecuador. This new service will tend greatly to facilitate commercial relations between the two countries, as exchange can not always be purchased at the Guayaquil banks. In this connection Article 3 of the agreement is of interest:

In view of the fluctuations in the rate of exchange between the two countries, it is agreed that the accounts, as regards money orders in both directions, shall be expressed in British money. The Post Office of Ecuador shall convert into British money the amounts of orders issued in Ecuador, and into the currency of Ecuador the amounts of orders issued in the United Kingdom.

The rate of conversion shall be in accordance with the rate of exchange current at Quito or Guayaquil on the date of the dispatch of the advice lists from the office of exchange of Ecuador in the case of money orders issued in Ecuador, and on the date of the receipt of the advice lists in the office of exchange of Ecuador in the case of orders issued in the United Kingdom.

The treaty further stipulates that the money-order service between the two contracting countries shall be performed exclusively by the "exchange offices" of Quito, Guayaquil, and London.

Trade Opportunity Service Brings Results.

A firm in the United States has informed the manager of the District Office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in New York City that it has received a trial order valued at \$1,200 from a firm in Spain. The firm received the name of the foreign buyer through the Foreign Trade Opportunity service of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The firm states that it believes it has established a valuable connection.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Flour and codfish, No. 22644.—A merchant in the West Indies desires to enter into commercial relations with American exporters of flour and codfish. Representation for an American house for all of the West Indies, including Haiti and Santo Domingo, is desired. Reference.

Machinery, motor vehicles, etc., No. 22645.—A commission firm in Spain advises an American consular officer of its desire to import from the United States machines for making buttons, hose, embroidery, and crochet work; also electrical novelties, automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, agricultural machinery, moving-picture films, and other merchandise of possible sale in Spain. Correspondence in English. References.

Padlocks, etc., No. 22646.—A business man in Russia desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of padlocks and locks with keys, eyelets and hooks for shoes, cotton yarn, and women's hosiery. Samples of yarn in Nos. 20/2, 32/2, 42/2, 60/2, in black, gray, brown, and green, with quotations for bundle of 10 pounds, are desired.

Grain and provisions, etc., No. 22647.—An American consular officer in Cuba writes that a business man in his district desires to represent American exporters of grain and provisions, grocery supplies of all kinds, office appliances, and pharmaceutical preparations. References.

Paper, No. 22648.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a business man in that country is in the market for colored tissue paper similar to samples which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 1869.)

Agricultural implements, etc., No. 22649.—A business man from Colombia who is now in the United States desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of agricultural implements capable of being transported by pack animals; also groceries, moderate-priced automobiles, building materials, dry goods, men's and women's clothing, and furniture (not upholstered). References.

Barber supplies, No. 22650.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that the owner of a barber shop in his district desires to secure catalogues and prices of barber supplies of all kinds. Catalogues and printed literature, etc., preferably in Portuguese, should be forwarded to the American consulate.

Toys and cigar holders, No. 22651.—A commission merchant in Spain informed an American consular officer of his desire to import from the United States all kinds of toys, as well as amber and imitation amber cigar holders. Correspondence in English. References.

Metal mounts for tobacco pipes, No. 22652.—A wholesale and export clay tobacco-pipe manufacturer in the United Kingdom informs an American consular officer of his desire to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of metal mounts for tobacco pipes, samples of which may be inspected at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 80561.) Usual purchases of 50 to 100 gross of each size at one time.

Chamois skins, No. 22653.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers in a position to supply chamois skins in thicknesses from 2 to 5 millimeters, whole skins of all sizes for use with knife-polishing machines. References.

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FEDERATED MALAY STATES RUBBER EXPORTATION.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, Straits Settlements, Aug. 15.]

The acting commissioner of trade and customs Federated Malay States reports that 32,145 tons of rubber were exported from the Federation during the first seven months of 1916, as compared with 22,877 tons for the similar period of 1915, or an increase of 9,268 tons. The value of the 1916 exportation for the seven months is \$48,302,500, United States currency, while the rubber export duty collected to July 31 amounted to \$1,258,060.

SOUTH AFRICAN CORN CROP.

[Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town, Aug. 25.]

As previously predicted [in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 21, 1916], the South African maize crop for 1916 is expected to fall far short of the normal yield, which means that there will be none for export and possibly not enough for home consumption. It is estimated that the production in 1915 was 30,750,000 bushels, of which 7,452,000 bushels were exported and 23,298,000 bushels consumed in the country. This year's production is estimated at 21,168,000 bushels only.

MONTEVIDEO ACCEPTS AMERICAN FREIGHT CARS.

[Consul Herman L. Spahr, Montevideo, Uruguay, Aug. 28.]

The Port Administration at Montevideo accepted the bid of an American firm to provide freight cars for the port railway, and last week a shipment of 50 low-side gondola cars, having passed all the tests, was approved. The officials are well pleased with the cars and with the manner in which the contract was carried out, the manufacturer not only having delivered practically on time but also refrained from asking an increase in the price, although materials rose greatly in value after the tender was made.

The satisfactory dealings of responsible American houses are looked on with much pleasure by the Montevideo consulate, which at times has had to combat a tendency to disparage American business methods by some importers who have had unpleasant experiences with houses new in the South American trade and indifferent to future orders.

THE NEW PIER AT CRISTOBAL-COLON.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Sept. 28.]

The new pier, No. 7, at Cristobal, Canal Zone, although not quite completed, has already been put to use for unloading cargoes to relieve the pressure for more handling space at the other two piers, Nos. 8 and 9, and Dock No. 10. Pier No. 7 is 1,035 feet long and 212 feet wide. The floor space is 237,300 square feet, of which the inclosed and roofed area is 155,000 square feet. This large structure is supported on 212 steel cylinders, 6 feet in diameter and 125 feet long, driven down to the water level. After pumping out the 41 feet of water, the rest of the cylinders are excavated to the bottom and then filled with reinforced concrete. The cylinders hold embedded in concrete steel rails on which rest steel girders to support the floor system, which is composed of continuous steel sleepers with 11-inch concrete slabs. The shed, or superstructure, is of steel framework with concrete walls and cement tile roof. The tile, of which 21,000 pieces were used, was manufactured by the American Cement Tile Manufacturing Co., which has now practically completed its contracts on the Isthmus. Pier No. 7 has no depressed railroad tracks running the whole length through the middle, as is the case in Piers Nos. 8 and 9; but it has a railroad track running outside along the walls on each side of it for convenience of loading and unloading freight. In building the superstructure of the new pier approximately 4,410,000 pounds of steel were used. The pier costs about \$1,420,000.

Provisions for Increased Shipping.

With the completion of Pier No. 7 there will be available at Cristobal 581,150 square feet of floor space in the new concrete dock and pier system at the Atlantic terminal of the canal and a total inclosed and roofed area of 418,180 square feet, all of which will probably be needed in the near future to accommodate the increased shipping at this port. To provide for the still larger demands expected in the next few years preliminary work has already been begun and the contract let for the steel cylinders for another concrete pier of the same size as Pier No. 7, to cost about \$1,500,000 and to be completed within two years.

MERCURY EXPERIMENTS AID THERMOMETER MAKERS.

The United States Bureau of Standards has completed a very careful determination of the freezing point of mercury, using platinum resistance thermometers to measure the temperature. The result of this work gives -38.87° C. (-37.97° F.) for this temperature.

It is interesting to note that as far back as 1862 the English Government, recognizing the importance of an accurate knowledge of this point, appropriated £150 to have it determined. The value then obtained, -38.85° C. (-37.93° F.), is in agreement with that obtained at the Bureau of Standards. However, other determinations made previous to and after this early work cast some doubt on its accuracy.

A knowledge of the freezing point of mercury is of great importance to thermometer makers, as it marks the lower limit to which a mercurial thermometer may be used and furnishes a method for calibrating or pointing the scale below 0° C. (32° F.).

CHANGES IN SHIPPING ON THE PACIFIC.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 18.]

Uncertainty characterizes shipping affairs along the Asiatic coast and in the trans-Pacific trade at present, as a result of changing conditions. There has been a reaction from the great boom in trans-Pacific business which had developed within the past year and a half. The high price of silver has tended to stop exports from the south China markets, while general business conditions have caused a diminution in imports.

The decrease in tonnage moving naturally led to a sharp decline in trans-Pacific freights. By decision of the trans-Pacific conference lines this week, however, freight rates from October on are to be quoted approximately at the level that has obtained during the past year—on the basis of \$12 per ton for rice. The rates are now open and competitive, and the rate on rice—the basis for trans-Pacific business going east—is around \$8 per ton.

Talk of Possible Change by Japanese Lines.

While the conditions in the freight market that have prevailed in the past few weeks apparently are to be overcome in the fall trade, there are several features of the general situation which also are to be considered by American importers and exporters. Shipping circles here consider it possible that with the resumption of a strong demand for cargo space anticipated in the fall, the subsidized Japanese tonnage may be withdrawn from the China and other non-Japanese ports, and that no freight space will be offered Hongkong, Shanghai, or Manila shippers on Japanese trans-Pacific vessels. This would be likely to make a material difference in the situation in some lines of trade. Already Japanese ports have the first call on space in Japanese steamers, but as a rule some outside freight has been carried.

Rates to and from Europe have held up much more stiffly all along than those to and from the United States. One explanation lies in the uncertainty of tonnage for Europe.

EXPORTS OF COTTON.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ended October 7, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia	79,063	Philadelphia		San Francisco	
Massachusetts	259	South Carolina		Washington	14,935
Maryland	1,610	Virginia	6,840		
New York	20,041	Galveston	74,419	Total	226,807
North Carolina		New Orleans	29,640		

The exports of 226,807 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 1,130,366 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 156,365 bales for the week and 811,484 bales in the cotton year.

NEW STEEL WORKS FOR NORWAY.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Sept. 23.]

Two new companies for the manufacture of steel plates for ships and other shipbuilding requirements have recently been formed in Norway. The larger of the two, the A/S Norskevalseverker, has purchased ground for its plant in Christiansand. Its capital will be from 5 to 10 million dollars and the initial output of the works about 80,000 tons, including 30,000 tons of ship plates and 30,000 tons of rolled sections. The other company, which is as yet unnamed, will have a capital of about \$2,140,000 and an annual output of 20,000 tons. The engineer of this latter company has requested this office to place him in communication with American manufacturers of machinery for steel works and rolling mills. Manufacturers of gas generator furnaces are also requested to communicate with him.

Supplies of Raw Materials—The Fuel Problem.

Most of the materials for Norwegian shipbuilding were supplied by Germany before the war. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining these supplies now, and the increased demand has been such that prices have risen considerably. The present is considered favorable for the establishment of steel works in Norway for supplying the increasing demands of its shipbuilding industry. There is plenty of iron ore in the country, but the high prices of fuel for its smelting and working has previously discouraged the development of such an industry, and the ore for the past 10 years has been mostly exported. It is thought that under present conditions iron and steel can be worked up more cheaply than it can be imported, in spite of the high cost of fuel. The new industry is considered essential to the profitable working and unrestricted development of Norwegian shipyards. The name of the engineer mentioned above may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It may be mentioned that European manufacturers have also been requested to offer tenders for supplying the requirements of the new plant, but it is thought that the conditions are such now that American firms will be able to compete successfully for most of the material required.

ESTIMATED WORLD CONSUMPTION OF JUTE.

[Consul Charles L. Latham, Dundee, Scotland, Sept. 25.]

An apparent shortage of 578,869 bales in the supply of jute for 1916-17 is the result arrived at in the September circular of W. F. Soutar & Co., of Dundee. The season's consumption—abnormal in consequence of the war—is placed at 9,445,000 bales, distributed as follows: United Kingdom. 1,245,000 bales (Scotland 1,200,000, England 20,000, Ireland 25,000); Continent, 1,200,000 bales (France 400,000, Norway and Sweden 90,000, Russia 100,000, Netherlands 60,000, Spain 250,000, Italy 300,000); America and other countries, except India. 750,000 bales; India. 6,250,000 bales (mills 5,750,000, local consumption 500,000). Against this is an estimated crop of 8,366,131 bales, with surplus stocks in warehouses in Dundee and Calcutta amounting to 500,000 bales; a total of 8,866,131 bales, or, as stated, 578,869 bales less than the estimated consumption.

The circular referred to, while in no way official, is recognized locally as being quite reliable.

INCREASED FOREIGN TRADE OF ITALY.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Sept. 16.]

The foreign trade of Italy during the first six months of 1916 reached a total of \$810,724,843. The exports amounted to \$231,133,410, a decrease of \$46,367,849, compared with the same period of 1915, while the imports amounted to \$579,591,433, a gain of \$123,532,751.

The total imports from the United States for the first six months of 1916 exceeded those for the entire year of 1915. The commerce with the United States for the whole of 1914 and 1915, and for the first six months of 1916, follows: Imports from United States—1914, \$85,469,457; 1915, \$238,947,462; and 1916 (first six months), \$240,781,346. Exports to United States—1914, \$50,655,169; 1915, \$49,540,361; and 1916 (first six months), \$25,726,278.

Imports and Exports by Classes.

The imports and exports, by classes, for the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916, are given in the following table. About 90 per cent of the gains in imports are to be found in the following classes: Wool, horsehair, and other hair; animals, products and waste of animals not comprised in other classes; hides and skins; and chemical products, medicinal substances, gums and perfumery. The figures for 1914 are final, while those for 1915 and 1916 are subject to revision:

Articles.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1914	1915	1916	1914	1915	1916
Animals, products and waste of animals not comprised in other classes.....	\$18,902,813	\$12,932,770	\$43,977,146	\$25,367,304	\$19,279,200	\$13,611,643
Cereals, flour, paste, and vegetable products not comprised in other classes.....	46,362,028	126,233,761	105,531,670	44,353,547	33,889,103	28,816,040
Chemical products, medicinal substances, gums, and perfumery.....	15,436,816	19,530,311	48,248,744	10,210,005	16,575,298	13,971,601
Colonial goods, spices, and tobacco.....	9,085,757	11,735,369	14,376,768	1,677,991	5,487,685	1,472,968
Colors and material for dyeing and tanning.....	3,969,469	4,779,594	5,691,237	832,411	987,301	997,087
Cotton.....	46,718,833	47,662,225	48,176,778	23,441,120	43,893,458	34,030,348
Hemp, flax, jute, and other fibrous plants except cotton.....	6,730,573	8,057,470	8,151,937	9,905,193	11,775,015	14,664,995
Hides and skins.....	17,601,471	15,025,182	42,520,546	8,547,722	5,628,205	3,404,925
Minerals, metals, and manufactures thereof.....	57,873,544	59,919,126	66,429,257	8,677,379	12,593,823	7,608,187
Paper and books.....	5,275,574	4,176,917	3,645,834	1,803,369	2,686,436	3,421,034
Rubber, gutta-percha, and manufactures of.....	6,752,299	6,025,519	8,153,358	5,885,400	6,427,489	9,616,987
Silk.....	16,938,526	11,082,839	7,328,725	52,301,616	52,307,369	47,760,779
Spirits, beverages, and oils.....	13,733,904	13,237,507	19,480,170	16,395,908	21,033,890	9,447,978
Stones, earth, pottery, glass, and crystal.....	46,822,697	72,330,200	65,072,047	10,607,420	9,902,830	11,572,599
Vehicles.....	4,158,969	1,303,403	699,522	5,428,688	7,041,894	7,081,977
Wood and straw.....	17,938,988	6,057,228	6,870,191	5,853,139	5,220,692	5,639,053
Wool, horse hair, and other hair.....	21,040,240	33,082,759	82,472,751	5,880,214	14,252,743	11,303,711
Miscellaneous articles.....	5,488,028	2,796,503	2,764,757	7,730,054	5,618,928	6,690,908
Total.....	361,230,429	456,058,682	579,591,433	245,269,119	277,501,259	231,133,410
Precious metals.....	3,196,455	3,334,017	66,276	2,880,409	610,382	52,187
Total.....	364,396,884	469,392,699	579,657,709	248,149,528	278,111,641	231,185,597

TRADE DEPRESSION IN SOUTH CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 23.]

The continuation of the high exchange value of silver has brought business in all lines that have to do with native production and consumption to almost a complete standstill in South China. In some lines of foreign industries in Hongkong, particularly in shipbuilding and kindred trades and in the manufacture of rope, cement, and other products of the sort, business is quite good, the shipyards, of course, being operated at their utmost capacity.

In the import trade generally, however, there is stagnation, due not only to the fact that people can not buy goods readily but largely because deliveries can not be made. For example, it has been impossible to make shipments of kerosene into the interior from Hongkong or Canton for months. Three shipments made by an American company at Canton in a week failed to arrive at destination. Shipments of cotton goods are difficult in the same way, while the transportation of more valuable things of any sort is all but impossible. Cotton yarn has moved in small volume only.

Practically no other imports are moving at all. Owing to high exchange it is probable that there will be temporarily a brisk import of many staple lines as soon as shipments can be made with safety, although the long-continued troubles and the difficulty of realizing on native products has left the average consumer in South China with little money to spend.

High Exchange Affects Exports.

In the way of exports high exchange operates as a great deterrent. Further, the same difficulty experienced in bringing in imports has been met with in getting out the more valuable exports. Last week a considerable shipment of raw silk was received in Canton by arrangement with the military authorities and it was the first lot of any moment for a considerable time. There has been very little done in ginger and similar products, while in hair, feathers, and bristles practically nothing has been done for weeks. The market as a whole is almost without life.

It is unlikely that trade will be very brisk so long as exchange remains at its present point. While high exchange value of silver theoretically stimulates imports, practically it usually results in depressed trade, especially after the first effects of high exchange in the way of filling immediate wants are passed. As a rule China can not buy without selling. It can not import safely in great quantities without covering the value of its imports by exports, and high exchange renders profitable export difficult if not impossible.

Good trade in China depends upon a proper balancing of exchange conditions, and trade has usually been best at comparatively low exchange. While it takes more of Chinese silver to buy foreign goods under such conditions, the Chinese producer is able to sell more of his products and usually has more silver with which to buy foreign goods at even the higher rate. Normal trade conditions and business in good volume in South China can hardly be expected until exchange falls.

NEW PORTLAND CEMENT FACTORY IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Aug. 28.]

On July 28, 1916, a decree of the National Government authorized the operation as a joint-stock company of the *Compañía Argentina de Cemento Portland*. This company has been formed by United States capitalists for the working of limestone quarries and the manufacture of cement, and has taken over property in Sierras Bayas, Province of Buenos Aires, for this purpose. According to local journals, it appears from experiments made by engineers of the Federal Ministry of Public Works at Quequen, Province of Buenos Aires, that the sand found in that district contains all the qualities necessary for the production of a cement that would satisfy the requirements of the National Public Health Works Department.

The site of the new factory is at Sierra Bayas, and its estimated cost is in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000. The machinery for the factory has already been ordered and the structure is to be erected under the supervision of cement experts, who will come from the United States. It is expected that the installation will be finished by the end of next year and that in 1918 the factory will be producing Argentine cement at the rate of 1,000,000 barrels per annum. The organization of such a factory in the Province of Buenos Aires is undoubtedly a matter of considerable importance to American exporters of Portland cement.

[Brief mention of this new enterprise was made in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 3, 1916.]

RICE PRODUCTION IN SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 11.]

In the recently published annual report on the paddy crop of Siam for the season 1915-16 the Department of Agriculture comes to the conclusion that the average of the last 10 years' harvests probably represents about the limit of capacity for production under present conditions, and it is only by the introduction of the new factors of irrigation and drainage, now being taken up, that a permanent improvement can be brought about.

The paddy crop for last year was lighter than for 1914-15, but the loss was to some extent covered by the greater extent of the area cultivated. The past year proves once more the uncertainty of the agricultural situation so long as farmers have to depend on a hazardous rainfall for the crops. The plowing and sowing for the 1915-16 season began in April, transplanting in July, and all planting operations were completed by the end of October or beginning of November, except in the Siamese Malay States, where planting began and was finished later. The harvesting began in October and was finished in February, 1916, in all but the Malay Peninsular districts, where the reaping took place from January to May. The area under cultivation for 1915-16 was 5,180,600 acres, against 5,096,000 acres for 1914-15 and 5,286,00 acres for 1913-14; and the yield of paddy was 4,468,905 short tons for 1915-16, 4,626,017 tons for 1914-15, and 4,766,814 tons for 1913-14.

MARKET FOR WHEAT FLOUR IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Sept. 22.]

Most of the flour received in Bermuda is imported directly from the mills of Canada or the United States. Shipments are ordinarily made with sight drafts attached to bills of lading payable in from 7 to 30 days. Formerly prices were quoted f. o. b. New York or Halifax, but during the last two years quotations have frequently been made c. i. f. Hamilton, though more often by Canadian than by American mills.

Three of Canada's largest mills have agents in Hamilton who receive weekly quotations and who often receive consignments for distribution. In such transactions they are entitled to a commission of 10 cents a barrel. One agent handles only the products of one mill, though a given mill may ship more than one brand of flour.

The flour used in Bermuda is of the highest grade of spring wheat patent. Little or no winter grades are used. A preference is apparent among importers for Canadian flour on account of the claim that it has better "yielding quality."

Imports During the Past Two Years.

Quantities and values of the imports of wheat flour into Bermuda during 1914 and 1915, with countries of origin, were:

Countries.	Quantities.		Values.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
United Kingdom.....	Barrel. 40	Barrel.	\$204	.....
Canada.....	17,514	15,179	69,547	\$64,130
United States.....	13,731	19,970	46,018	86,473
Total.....	31,244	35,149	115,769	150,603

Flour is received in barrels (196 pounds) and in bags (98 pounds), although the figures given are reckoned on the basis of barrels. A movement is on foot to secure legislation to prevent the importation of flour except in barrels in order that the barrels may be used for the exportation of agricultural produce. It is proposed to admit flour free of duty when imported in barrels, but to impose a duty of 10 per cent when imported in other kinds of packages.

[A list of commission agents and importers of flour in Bermuda may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80611.]

AMERICAN AEROPLANE AT SWATOW.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Swatow, China, Sept. 6.]

On September 1 there arrived at Swatow from Manila an American aeroplane valued at \$8,000 United States currency. This machine was purchased by the local military authorities for their use. A Chinese aviator who received his training in the United States has been engaged to operate the machine here. The foreign and Chinese populations of Swatow are looking forward with great interest to the flights of this machine, which will take place in the near future.

CANE-MILL EQUIPMENT FOR WEST INDIES.

[Special Agent Garrard Harris.]

In the last year and a half there has been a considerable revival of interest throughout all the West Indies in the production of sugar, molasses, rum, and alcohol. The prices being paid for these commodities are very profitable and have enabled many owners of sugar-cane properties to pull out of debt and realize a surplus.

Elimination of the beet-sugar competition from Europe has increased the price for sugar far beyond its selling figures of recent years. The demand for alcohol in explosive making and in the preparation of the huge quantities of drugs and antiseptics required by the European war and an increased demand for rum at good prices have given life and impetus to the cultivation of sugar cane, from which these commodities are derived.

Class of Equipment Being Bought.

Areas that have not grown cane in many years are being brought into cultivation again, and much new ground is being put under cane. Prosperity came first to the large, modern sugar establishments and then to the smaller producers. The growers of moderate-sized plantings of cane are now enjoying good prices and a market that is apparently not limited in its absorbing capacity. In Cuba and Porto Rico, which are well supplied with "centrals," the cane as a rule is sold outright to the central, either for cash or a stipulated percentage of the sugar. In the rest of the West Indies, where there are not so many centrals, the small growers grind their own cane and that of their tenants and convert it into crude sugar, selling both the molasses and the sugar (and, in some instances, merely the extracted cane juice) to rum distilleries.

It is this type of cane grower and manufacturer who is in the market for equipment. Many of these comparatively small estates have made money even with antiquated machinery. Many owners of such estates are now seeking mills that will give greater extraction from the cane. Generally speaking, these mills are to be operated by mules or oxen by means of a sweep. Some market exists for steam-power mills and those driven by gasoline or kerosene engines, but the largest demand is for mills operated by animal power. Gasoline and kerosene are expensive and competent mechanics are hard to find when needed for repairs or adjustments, and the same arguments hold good against the steam-power mills.

Evaporators and Stills.

Evaporators are also in demand. Many of the small producers have old "open kettle" equipment, and this is being utilized, although most owners are convinced of the great waste attendant upon this antiquated process and are looking for something better. New estates are going into cane and, of course, require new and modern outfits. There is also a fair demand for stills for the manufacture of rum and alcohol.

The opinion prevails throughout the West Indies that the war in Europe will certainly last another two years, or even more, and that the present high prices for all cane products will continue that long at least. Moreover, it is generally believed that, even if the war should end sooner, it will be six or seven years before the beet sugar

of Europe will again become a serious competitor, and that alcohol will continue to be used largely in industrial pursuits. It is also a matter of general hope that the time is not far distant when alcohol will be utilized more generally as a fuel for motor vehicles. For these reasons the West Indians are willing to buy good equipment.

The Field for Sales.

As stated, Cuba and Porto Rico, by reason of having many large centrals scattered over nearly the whole of their territory, do not offer the market for small cane mills and equipment that other portions of the West Indies do. However, there should be a very fair field in the two islands named for alcohol and rum distilling outfits, and in the more remote districts there probably will be found some demand for the small cane mills.

Haiti and the Dominican Republic offer two of the very best prospective fields for the sale of cane mills, evaporators, distilling outfits, and small complete sugar-making plants. Haiti is an especially attractive territory. At this time it is perhaps the country with best natural advantages for cane growing and sugar making and the one least supplied with the means of taking advantage of the really good opportunities that exist there. Its large area of fertile alluvial plain and valley is comparatively untouched. The almost virgin soil is of fine producing capacity, and for many years will not need the stimulus of artificial fertilizers. Indications are pointing to a considerable activity in development in Haiti along all lines growing out of sugar-cane cultivation. The Dominican Republic, occupying the eastern two-thirds of the same island as Haiti, offers attractions little below those of the country on the west.

The smaller islands, such as the Danish, the French, and the British West Indies, are also territory in which there is much interest being manifested in the acquisition of all sorts of equipment needed in the growing of cane and the manufacture of cane products. These islands, in the aggregate, constitute a large area of great purchasing power.

No Catalogs in French.

The manager of a large trading company in Martinique complained recently that he had not been able to find a catalogue of American sugar mills, machinery, appliances, or equipment in the French language; that he was carrying two lines of American cane mills; and that if he had an adequate catalogue he could utilize copies to great advantage and make his sales larger. It would seem that the field populated by people speaking the French language is of sufficient importance to warrant the publication of such a catalogue on the part of manufacturers, especially since the opening up to development of Haiti—a country of 1,600,000 population. There is reported to be considerable wealth in Haiti, which its owners will now employ in bringing into cultivation and use wide areas of rich land. Sugar cane is the natural crop to plant, and the one from which the largest returns may be had at the smallest expense.

The French possessions of Guadeloupe, its smaller dependent islands, and the island of Martinique are all populated by folk who, in the main, know only the French tongue. There are thousands of

acres of cane land available in these colonies and thousands of acres already in cultivation. There is also much wealth, and the owners of the land are able to make use of it and to purchase the necessary equipment. Direct steamship connections and liberal treatment by the home government make the manufacture of cane products in the French West Indies a very attractive proposition, indeed. Small estates are the rule in this territory, and equipment of all sorts is in demand.

It would seem that it is well worth the cost of issuing a catalogue in the French language to have it appeal especially to the French trade. As the whole list of cane equipment is not very extensive, it is no great undertaking for a manufacturer or dealer to provide such a catalogue. In view of the fact that English, French, and Spanish are spoken in the West Indies, each in its own territory, the reading matter could be made interlinear in the three languages. The illustrations should be ample and well executed. Such a catalogue could be used not only for the West Indies but for the whole of Latin America as well.

English Mills are the Standard.

American mills are not regarded with the same favor accorded those of English make. It is complained that the American mills do not "stand up under the work" as do the British machines. Most of the owners use equipment very roughly, leaving it exposed to torrential rain and tropical sunlight from one season to another. As a rule, the cane-mill operatives, through ignorance, do everything that ought not to be done, from overfeeding the rollers (by jamming in too many stalks at once) to all other conceivable and inconceivable ways of abusing machinery and exercising lack of judgment or care.

Only apparatus of the utmost solidity and simplicity can stand such treatment and remain efficient. This the cane mills made by a firm in Darby, England, are claimed to do. This make of mill appears to be generally the standard of excellence in the West Indies, and it is preferred to any other. Various makes of cane mills have been tried, but the conclusion regarding the Darby mills remains. Nor is this preference confined to the West Indies. In several countries of Central America I have heard these same mills alluded to as being the best to be had in wearing qualities and general serviceability.

Some mills of American make are undoubtedly being sold in the West Indies now, but the main argument for their sale is the difficulty of procuring the English mills. As between the two makes of cane mills, ordinarily, there would be no argument. The buyer would take the English mill. If he has used it before, he found it satisfactory and durable; if he is making his first venture in the use of a cane mill, he has heard of it from his neighbors. The West Indian is a conservative and prefers to follow the beaten path in the expenditure of his money.

No Ornamentation Desired.

As illustrating how closely small points must be watched in different localities, mention may be made of the fact that some of the American cane mills sent to the French West Indies are nicely adorned with ornamental painting. The best plan is to give the

mills a thorough coating of red-lead paint, and over this a coating of good black paint, as weather-resisting as it is possible to find. Only this—and nothing more—for your French colonial is a close buyer and sees no use in paying for pretty ornamentation on a cane mill.

In correspondence relative to sales, it is much the best to quote price delivered at the nearest port. This is the custom of the British makers and is a great convenience to the prospective purchaser. He usually has not the facilities for obtaining information as to freight rates that are at the command of the manufacturer in the United States. He wants to know just what the machinery will cost him laid down at his port, exclusive of the duties, which he can ascertain without difficulty or delay.

Use of French Language.

Sending traveling men who speak only English, or only English and Spanish, to Haiti and the French West Indies is largely a waste of time and money. With Spanish there is a small chance of making some headway, as a few of the French islanders know a little Spanish, but it is best to have a salesman who can speak, read, and write French fluently.

Letters, circulars, catalogues, and price lists in Spanish sent to Haiti, Guadeloupe, and Martinique might as well be in English, or Hindustani, or Arabic for all the good such literature does—yet an astonishing amount of Spanish mail arrives by each steamer. The French territorials and Haitians might bear this calmly if it were not for the fact that they are so often called upon to make up deficiencies in postage on letters mailed from the United States.

SHOEPACK INDUSTRY IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 29.]

Two concerns at Fredericton, in the St. Stephen consular district, employ about 150 and 200 persons, respectively, in the manufacture of leather goods, chiefly shoepacks and accessories to this product. There is a demand particularly among lumbermen for footwear which is waterproof, yet warm and comfortable in cold weather. The soft-soled boot or shoe produced here is of the class of shoepacks sold in various parts of the United States.

One of the firms mentioned has established a branch house in Calais, Me., opposite St. Stephen, to handle the distribution of its products in the United States, where sales are made even in the South.

The hides are selected in the green and tanned in the factories here. They have a finished color of a rich brown. A representative of one concern states that even long experience in selling the product in the United States has not enabled him to find a market for the waste leather, especially the smaller pieces, at a price higher than its value as mere scrap. He says the firm reluctantly sells its waste in such a market, believing that in the near future American ingenuity will produce a method of utilizing small pieces of leather for novelties or domestic use.

DRAINING THE ZUIDER ZEE.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 12; see also *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 19, Mar. 30, and Apr. 18, 1916.]

After being discussed pro and con through many columns of periodicals and hundreds of pages of books and pamphlets during three-quarters of a century, the proposition to drain the Zuider Zee has finally reached the form of a bill introduced into the Second Chamber of the Netherlands Parliament on September 9.

The bill provides for a dam across the upper part of the Zuider Zee, extending from the Province of North Holland, over the Amsteldiep (a narrow strait), to the island of Wieringen and thence to the Friesland coast at the town of Piaam, in a northeasterly direction. Including the island, the total length of the dam would be about 24 miles; excluding the island, about 19 miles of dam actually to be constructed. A lake of 882,000 acres in area would be formed, of which, it is understood, about 500,000 acres would be drained, leaving the remainder as a lake in the midst of the redeemed arable land.

As numerous fisher folk depend upon the Zuider Zee for their livelihood, the bill now introduced contemplates indemnity for such injury as they may suffer. The bill also takes account of possible damage to shipping and other interests.

Cost of Project—Will Take Fifteen Years to Complete.

It is estimated that the full execution of the project will require 15 years and will cost \$44,220,000, of which two-thirds would be for the dam and auxiliary works and one-third for the draining. In addition, would be works and measures of a protective nature, following the draining, the cost whereof, as estimated, would swell the grand total to approximately \$90,000,000. These works and measures will be the subject of another bill to be introduced in the Parliament.

When work on the project will begin is not yet known, but it will be decided as the bill progresses through the Parliament. Long discussion and consideration is expected. Many interests which will be affected must be taken into account. Among them are the canals of Amsterdam, which are flushed and freshened by water pumped from the Zuider Zee, and provision therefor must be arranged.

It is calculated that the dam will be completed in the ninth year of work on the project. In the fourth year work will begin on dikes for the area to be reclaimed. Just how the draining will be done does not appear in the published details of the project.

SHORTAGE OF BEER AT SAINT PIERRE.

[Consul John J. C. Watson, St. Pierre, Miquelon, Sept. 26.]

A scarcity of beer exists in this district at present, offering American brewers an opportunity to increase their sales here. While the market is small, it is worth looking over.

The average annual consumption of beer for the district is approximately 1,000 gallons. Last year only about half of that amount was imported. Most of it came from France formerly, but since the war began the importation of French beer has practically ceased. American exporters should note that the inhabitants of this colony prefer light beer, although a small amount of dark beer is imported from England.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	Nov. 1	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T. ^c	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Cum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E. ^b	Georgetown, Guiana..	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Spahr, Herman L. ^c	Montevideo, Uruguay..	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	

* Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

* Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

* Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

ITALY'S FOREIGN TRADE IN SUGAR.

[Vice Consul Arthur G. Frost, Genoa, Sept. 19.]

During 1913, 1914, 1915, and the first six months of 1916 Italy imported and exported the following quantities of first-grade sugar (metric ton equals 2,204.6 pounds):

Imports and exports.	1913	1914	1915	Jan.-June, 1916.
IMPORTS.				
Value.....	\$360,995	\$285,610	\$183,439	\$1,053,241
Metric tons.....	6,235	4,774	3,066	14,337
From Egypt.....				8,533
Cuba.....				5,656
Austria-Hungary.....	5,319	3,973	2,840	303
France.....	807	726	74	30
EXPORTS.				
Value.....	\$59,602	\$1,947,698	\$3,900,998	\$252,367
Metric tons.....	1,029	22,426	44,917	2,535

The present scarcity has been estimated at 100,000 tons, and the free entrance of at least that quantity is being discussed in business circles.

Consul W. E. Alger, at Fernie, British Columbia, reports that the mines at Rossland, in that consular district, are shipping between 5,000 and 6,000 tons of ore weekly to the smelter at Trail, British Columbia.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Post-office construction, No. 3666.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 14, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Media, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Media, Pa., or at the above-named office.

Alcohol, No. 3667.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until October 18, 1916, for furnishing alcohol, internal-revenue tax unpaid, in barrels, and denatured alcohol, to be delivered in metal drums of not over 60 gallons capacity. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Gasoline motors, No. 3668.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until October 23, 1916, for furnishing four 14-horsepower gasoline motors for power boats. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named officer.

Telephone switchboard, No. 3669.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 27, 1916, for furnishing 50 camp telephone switchboards. (Refer to proposal 868.)

Sea wall, No. 3670.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 6, 1916, for repairs, relocation, and extension of the present dry-rubble sea wall at the naval hospital, Chelsea, Mass. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the Commandant of the Navy Yard, Boston, Mass.

Electromagnet, No. 3671.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 18, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., a 110-volt electromagnet. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3672.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 25, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port). Isthmus of Panama, suction pipe and fittings, bolts, rivets, nails, horseshoes, toe calks, sheet copper, copper tubing, sheet brass, bronze bars, sheet tin, banna tin, sheet lead, solder, wire, electric cable, electrical attachments, telephone supplies, wire molding, beeswax compound, twine, steel lockers, drinking fountains, cooling boxes, show cases, fire extinguishers, cable clips, cable thimbles, turnbuckles, shovels, wheelbarrows, jacks, anchor lights, cocks, valves, ferrules, wagon parts, rubber tires, horse brushes, manila rope, oakum, leather, soap, sal ammoniac, acetone, ultramarine blue, and spud timbers. (Circular 1089).

Dredging, No. 3673.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, New London, Conn., until October 26, 1916, for maintenance dredging in Pawcatuk River, R. I. and Conn. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

Electric lift, No. 3674.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, D. C., until October 24, 1916, for furnishing and installing an electric lift. Specifications and full details will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

Motor generator set, No. 3675.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1916, for furnishing one 300-kilowatt motor generator set and switchboard at the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the Commandant of the navy yard named.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Artificial eyes for dolls, No. 22654.—An American consular officer in Italy reports that a doll manufacturer in his district is in the market for artificial eyes for dolls of all standard sizes. Samples and price lists are desired.

General merchandise, No. 22655.—A merchant in southern Chile informs an American consular officer of his desire to purchase in the United States sugar, rice, nails, zinc buckets and washbasins, zinc bathtubs, plain and corrugated galvanized-iron sheets, soap, enameled table and kitchen ware, cereals, butter, caustic soda, canned fish, window glass, wire fencing, and candles. Correspondence may be in English, but Spanish is preferred. References.

Account books, No. 22656.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a man in his district desires quotations on ledgers with indexes, journals, and cash books in cheap and medium grades, 8 inches by 13 inches to 12 inches by 17 inches, in 100 to 600 page sizes. Titles to be printed in Spanish. Correspondence in English.

Tractor plows, No. 22657.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in Central Africa writes that a man in that territory desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of tractor plows.

Office supplies, No. 22658.—An import house in Portugal advises an American consular officer of its desire to establish commercial relations with American manufacturers of writing inks, office supplies, etc. Correspondence in French preferred.

Mission furniture, No. 22659.—An American consular officer in New Zealand transmits the name of a firm of furniture dealers in his district desirous of getting in touch with manufacturers and exporters of mission furniture. Catalogues, price lists, etc., are desired. Reference.

Machinery, No. 22660.—A general commission merchant in southern France informs an American consular officer that he wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of paper-mill machinery. Correspondence in English.

Machinery, No. 22661.—A man in northern Brazil informs an American consular officer of his desire to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of complete installations of machinery for the preparation of tapioca and "farinha" from mandioca roots. Catalogues and price lists should be sent. Correspondence in English.

Pressed glass goods, No. 22662.—A firm in southern Spain informs an American consular officer of its desire to act as agent for an American manufacturer of pressed glass goods of all kinds in imitation of cut glass, such as flower and fruit baskets, table center pieces, toilet and table services, etc.

Machinery, No. 22663.—An American consular officer in Denmark transmits the name of a business man who desires to represent American manufacturers of machinery for the rolling and drawing of copper wire, machinery for rolling and working raw rubber, machines for laying prepared rubber around wires, machines for stranding and braiding vulcanized rubber wires and cables; machines for pressing lead mantles around cables, and machines for laying iron or steel tapes around cables; also armoring machines. Corresponding in English.

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RELAXATION OF FRENCH EMBARGO ON ORES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Oct. 11.]

An order of October 6 permits the exportation from French colonies of radioactive uranium-bearing ores to the United Kingdom, British possessions and protectorates, uninvaded Belgium, Japan, Russia, and countries of North and South America.

REVIEWS DEVELOPMENT OF COTTON TRADE.

The growth of the world's cotton industries is shown in the annual cotton handbook of London, the latest issue of which is reviewed by the Textile Mercury, of Manchester, England. The present total of the world's cotton spindles is 151,667,000, compared with 94,568,000 21 years ago. The greatest advance has been made in the United States. Since 1904 there has been an addition of more than 40,000,000 spindles throughout the world, and since 1895 about 57,000,000. There are now 6,513 cotton firms in all cotton-spinning countries, 2,004 of these being in Great Britain. The number of cotton looms is estimated at 2,852,947. In commenting on the figures presented the Mercury says:

It appears strange that the United States, with a considerably smaller number of spindles, should be using nearly twice as many bales of raw cotton as we are, and that India, with only 6,849,000 spindles, should be consuming more than half the bales that we dispose of with 60,000,000 spindles. Writers are pointing out that comparatively we are going back; but the difference in spindleage and consumption is so obvious that we must look elsewhere for an explanation of our position. If we are remaining practically stationary in consumption with an increase in the number of spindles and of speed, it is clear that we are forging ahead in the quality of raw material used. The predominance of the ring frame abroad accounts to some extent for the apparently enormous consumption. But our place lies in the use of better qualities, in devoting more time to the spinning of a given quantity (for the production of higher counts), and in much less waste. This is the direction in which we continue to lead, and it is what we have to think about in discussing the problem of growing cotton for our purpose in our own Empire. In this respect our attention is now frequently directed to India, but our supplies from this country are so small and the call from other countries so great that we can not hope to get any satisfaction from India for a long time to come. We must also look elsewhere.

PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR AUSTRALASIAN WOOL TRADE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Aug. 28.]

The season of 1915-16 was one of exceptional prosperity for the sheep and wool industry of Australasia, and the outlook for the 1916-17 season is even better. During the year ended June 30, Australasia exported 1,807,979 bales (of 500 pounds) of the 1915-16 clip, valued at \$145,525,538, against 1,544,799 bales of the 1914-15 clip, valued at \$96,077,100, and 1,968,218 of the 1913-14 clip, valued at \$126,916,062. Of these shipments New Zealand contributed 364,861 bales in 1915-16, 321,927 bales in 1914-15, and 264,867 bales in 1913-14.

New Zealand supplied but 3 per cent of the 1,141,696 bales of merino wool of the 1915-16 clip that were exported from Australasia, but furnished 97 per cent of the crossbred and all strong wools. It is estimated that American buyers took 82,000 bales of the New Zealand clip for the season 1915-16.

According to data obtained from the wool buyers of Australasia the above wool was thus distributed:

Destination.	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
United Kingdom	423,450	983,355	793,178
France		58,705	57,345
Belgium and Holland		5,449	.....
Germany and Austria	1,283,155	8,439	.....
Italy and Switzerland		68,436	166,916
Russia, Norway, and Sweden		1,166	7,422
United States and Canada	115,196	234,896	564,433
Japan, China, and India	10,500	81,890	113,611
Local manufacturers	111,817	102,158	158,074
Total	1,968,218	1,544,799	1,807,979

Export Changes—Number of Sheep.

It will be noted that the Continental countries as grouped in 1913-14 took about 65 per cent of the Australasian clip, while the same countries in 1914-15 took only about 9 per cent and in 1915-16 about 13 per cent. The share of the United States and Canada increased from 6 per cent in 1913-14 to 31 per cent in 1915-16.

The actual over-sea shipments of wool from Australasia amounted to 2,527,463 bales for 1913-14, 2,187,702 bales for 1914-15, and 2,129,915 bales for 1915-16, of which New Zealand supplied 560,887, 562,014, and 510,656 bales, respectively. These figures are for the entire year, while those given earlier in this report are for the season clip only. A large amount of the 1914-15 clip was held over in New Zealand on account of a lack of shipping space and the disorganized condition of the market.

There were 94,389,171 sheep in Australasia at the close of 1915, against 106,477,132 for 1914 and 107,202,020 for 1913. Of these 24,607,868 were in New Zealand in 1915, against 24,465,526 in 1914 and 24,798,763 in 1913. During 1915 New Zealand exported 6,494,197 sheep carcasses and Australia 3,582,911 sheep carcasses, against 6,181,184 and 3,722,830, respectively, for 1914.

The production of wool per sheep in Australasia has materially increased during the last 20 years. The average production per 1,000 sheep for the season 1896-7 was 16.75 bales, for the season 1905-6, 19.86 bales, and for the season 1915-16, 22.56 bales.

GOVERNMENT AID TO ITALIAN MERCHANT MARINE.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul at Genoa, Sept. 10.]

The development of the Italian merchant marine is among the foremost questions under discussion at the present time. At its sitting on August 8 the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the proposals of the Ministry for Transportation, adopted the following measures with a view to encouraging an immediate increase in the merchant fleet:

1. The profits made by cargo boats purchased abroad and which become a part of the Italian mercantile marine within two years from above date shall be exempt from the payment of the income tax and from the extraordinary war surtax during the first three years of their operation.

2. The same exemptions from imposts and surtaxes shall be granted for four years to cargo boats constructed in Italian shipyards, upon the declaration that construction began after May 24, 1915, and that the vessel will become a part of the Italian mercantile marine and will be put in service before December 31, 1918.

3. To cargo boats the construction of which is commenced in Italian shipyards after the publication of these provisions and for the entire duration of the war there is accorded entrance, free of customs duties, to material of foreign origin necessary for the construction of all parts of the ship; that is, hull, motors, boilers, and auxiliary apparatus.

4. To the ships themselves is granted a construction subsidy of 85 lire (\$16.40) per gross ton, in conformity with article 4 of the law of July 13, 1911—this, of course, annulling the customs rebate set forth in article 2 of said law, in view of the fact that the materials will be exempt from customs duty. As to the construction of machinery, boilers, and auxiliary apparatus, the subsidies established by article 3 of the said law still remain in force. (Experts reckon that the average of the two subsidies amounts to 105 lire (\$20.25) per gross ton.)

Time Limit—Exemptions—Ownership.

5. Cargo boats constructed as indicated above must begin active operation within two years from the declaration of construction. Should this limit of time be exceeded, the constructor shall not be entitled to any compensation other than that fixed by the law now in force.

6. Vessels purchased, as well as those built in accordance with the preceding provisions, shall enjoy one year's exemption from any requisition, civil, military, or for obligatory transportation, to be computed from the date of registration as an Italian vessel.

7. The Ministry for Transportation, after hearing the Central Traffic Commission, may determine the conditions for transportation upon requisitioned ships from foreign countries to Italy of all the material needed for the construction of cargo boats in Italian shipyards.

8. In order to enjoy the benefits of these measures, vessels must be owned wholly by Italian citizens or by companies legally established in Italy, of which the president of the administrative board, the delegated administrator, and an active majority of the members of the administrative board shall be Italian citizens. The vessels shall be classified in the Italian National Register, shall retain such classification for a period of at least five years, and shall not be sold during this period to persons or companies not authorized to be proprietors of Italian vessels.

[Other measures looking toward an increase of the Italian merchant fleet were discussed in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 6 and 10, 1916.]

American Onion Seed for Bermuda.

Orders from Bermuda for several hundred pounds of California onion seed as the result of sending last season 2 pounds of sample seed to Consul Carl R. Loop, of Hamilton, are reported by the Los Angeles growers. As noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for January 29, 1916, the same firm supplied, free of charge, onion seed for the use of the Bermuda Experiment Station.

TRADE FIGURES FOR ECUADOR.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Sept. 22.]

The total value of the foreign trade of Ecuador for 1915 was \$21,340,631, against \$21,502,081 the preceding year. The imports during last year amounted to \$8,422,881 and the exports to \$12,917,750. The following table shows the quantity and value of the imports from each country during 1915, according to figures compiled by the Director of Statistics of the local customhouse:

Countries.	Pounds.	Value.	Countries.	Pounds.	Value.
Australia.....	39,026,229	\$115,829	Panama.....	355,076	\$15,541
Belgium.....	1,016,000	30,926	Peru.....	6,816,838	270,323
Chile.....	1,226,259	68,257	Salvador.....	111,029	5,869
China.....	509,116	45,564	Spain.....	2,060,975	230,867
Colombia.....	73,661	55,439	Sweden.....	294,092	21,427
Denmark.....	125,936	16,723	United Kingdom.....	22,006,300	3,353,333
France.....	1,574,149	249,728	United States.....	93,871,942	3,209,608
Germany.....	1,647,920	50,832	All other countries.....	116,250	11,394
Holland.....	927,964	172,388			
Italy.....	1,969,090	369,961	Total.....	173,821,861	8,422,881
Japan.....	64,055	11,882			

As will be noted by the above table, the United Kingdom led, supplying \$3,353,333 worth of goods, and the United States second with \$3,209,608 worth. The total weight of the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 22,006,300 pounds, whereas those from the United States were 93,871,942 pounds. This is accounted for by reason that most of the imports from the United States are bulky, such as machinery, construction materials, foodstuffs, etc., while those from the United Kingdom are mostly textiles, etc.

PARA RUBBER EXPORTS FROM MALAY PENINSULA.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, Straits Settlements, Aug. 24.]

Messrs. Barlow & Co., of Singapore, publishes figures giving the amount of Para rubber exported from the Malay Peninsula from the four ports of Singapore, Penang, Malacca, and Port Swettenham for varying periods from January 1, 1916, as shown below. The quantities are stated in pounds, with figures for the corresponding periods of the three previous years. These figures are actual exports from the Peninsula, and Port Swettenham figures do not include rubber sent from that port for transshipment by steamers calling only at Singapore and Penang.

	Singapore (from Jan. 1 to July 31).	Penang (from Jan. 1 to June 30).	Malacca (from Jan. 1 to June 30).	Port Swet- tenham (from Jan. 1 to July 21).	Total, Malay Peninsula.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
1916.....	75,739,771	15,863,767	3,442,134	13,582,195	108,627,867
1915.....	40,042,540	12,821,996	4,329,778	16,320,300	73,514,614
1914.....	24,175,230	10,407,734	2,548,819	15,034,312	52,166,095
1913.....	13,938,262	6,988,266	(c)	14,340,559	* 25,267,087

* Figures not available.

b Exclusive of Malacca exports for 1913, which figures are not available.

PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR BRAZILIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 30.]

The report of the directorate of the Brazilian steamship line A Companhia Commercio e Navegação for the year ended June 30, 1916, shows a period of unusual prosperity, the net profits for the 12 months amounting to about \$1,020,000. From these profits liberal percentages have been passed to the insurance, deterioration, and reserve funds, which now figure in the general balance sheet with the following totals: Insurance fund, \$187,000; deterioration fund, \$316,000; reserve fund, \$192,000. Deducting these reserves, the undivided profits now amount to \$1,313,000, which will be distributed only after all the obligations of the company have been liquidated. These total \$620,000, and under the contract with the creditors, made in the beginning of 1915, will be entirely paid on January 13, 1917.

The capital of the company consists of \$2,500,000 in shares and \$1,500,000 in debentures. The fleet of the company is composed of 20 steamers with an aggregate registered tonnage of 50,000.

The shortage of means of transportation in the over-sea trade and the necessity of moving the São Paulo coffee crop induced the company to divert some of its steamers from the coastwise traffic and dispatch them to the United States and Europe. Early in the period four steamers, carrying 265,198 pieces of cargo, were dispatched to Norway and Sweden, but the losses incident to their detention discouraged this enterprise and the Scandinavian voyages were abandoned, greater attention being given to the United States, which proved to be Brazil's best market. Eleven steamers, carrying 419,550 packages, were sent to New York and New Orleans during the 12 months. Only two boats, with 80,158 parcels of cargo, undertook the voyage to Havre.

BULKHEAD AND LOAD LINES COMMITTEE.

The following committee of shipbuilders, naval architects, and shipowners has been designated as a result of the conference on September 27 at the office of Secretary Redfield, Department of Commerce, to consider the questions of bulkheads and load lines, and report to Secretary Redfield later: Stevenson Taylor, of New York, president of the American Bureau of Shipping and of the American Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers; H. C. Sadler, Ann Arbor, Mich., professor of naval architecture, University of Michigan; H. M. Herriman, Cleveland, Ohio; C. J. Olson, San Francisco, Cal.; H. H. Raymond, New York, manager Clyde and Mallory Steamship Cos.; T. M. Cornbrooks, Sparrows Point, Md., chief engineer and naval architect, Bethlehem Steel Co.'s Maryland shipbuilding plant; William Gatewood, Newport News, Va., naval architect, Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.; W. A. Dobson, naval architect, Philadelphia, William Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co.; and J. W. Powell, Quincy, Mass., president Fore River Shipbuilding Co.

The date and place of the first meeting of the committee will be arranged by Mr. Stevenson Taylor.

CROPS AND FISHERIES, ST. PIERRE.

[Consul John J. C. Watson, St. Pierre-Miquelon, Sept. 25.]

Crop Report for 1916.

The islands which form the St. Pierre-Miquelon consular district are small and barren, consequently there is little cultivation of the soil. There are only half a dozen farms in all.

In spite of a lack of rain, the 1916 season has been a fairly good one. Local estimates place the hay crops at 320 tons, the yield of potatoes at 400 barrels, and that of carrots at 300 barrels. (The ton used here weighs 2,204.6 pounds, a barrel of potatoes weighs about 170 pounds, and a barrel of carrots 150 pounds.) Cabbages, turnips, and a few other vegetables are also grown, but in negligible quantities. Roughly speaking, the crops were 10 per cent smaller than those of last season.

Successful Fishing Season.

Both the Bank and the shore fisheries have been good so far, and it looks as though the present season will be a successful one.

Bait has been plentiful on the Banks. The fishermen have landed a part of their catch (about one-fourth of their cargoes, on an average at St. Pierre and then returned to the fishing grounds. The local price for green cod is 35 francs (\$6.75) per quintal (121.25 pounds) for small fish and 45 francs (\$8.70) for large size. It is reported here that in France green cod are bringing 50 francs (\$9.65) per quintal for small size and 60 to 65 francs (\$11.60 to \$12.55) for large size.

The shore fishing at St. Pierre is good this season, although bait is not so plentiful as it was last year. Caplin arrived on June 8 and remained until the middle of July; squid appeared the early part of July. Prices for shore fish have also been good, averaging 30 francs (\$5.80) per quintal, with no reduction for small fish.

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FOR SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 14.]

The Siamese budget estimates for the fiscal twelvemonth ending March 31, 1917, contain an item of \$427,285 for a new royal yacht, this amount representing three-quarters of the whole cost of the vessel. The Kawasaki Dockyard Co., of Kobe, Japan, is the builder of the new yacht, and has taken in exchange, as part payment, the old royal yacht, the *Maha Chakri*. Six Japanese naval officers and 31 sailors have arrived to take the latter vessel to Japan. The *Maha Chakri* was built at Leith in 1892, but its draft of 14 feet has always been a serious disadvantage for use in royal visits to various places on the Siamese coast and for crossing the river bar at Bangkok, and as its seaworthiness was also doubtful its abandonment was decided on some time ago.

The Navy League had received by April 1, 1916, a total of \$786,659 for the proposed new scout-cruiser fund (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 7, 1915). As it was originally proposed to collect only \$1,110,000 for this purpose, the acquiring of this vessel is not far distant, but as yet there is no information available as to the place where the cruiser will be constructed.

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA.

[Consul George E. Chamberlain, Georgetown, Sept. 14.]

There have been considerable increases in the exports of certain articles from British Guiana during the current year, while other articles show decreases. According to figures compiled up to September 7, sugar, the leading article of export, shows a decline in shipments of 10,117 tons, as compared with the same period of the previous year. The lack of sufficient rain from December to March was chiefly responsible for the falling off in production. The rainfall since then, however, has been much greater, and it is anticipated that the fall grinding will show better results. Balata, gold, and coconuts also show decreased shipments, while rice, rum, citrate of lime, rubber, diamonds, and coffee show substantial gains.

Quantities of Exports—Destination.

The following comparative table shows the exports from British Guiana during the period from January 1 to September 7, 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	1916	1915	Articles.	1916	1915
Balata.....lbs..	547,970	960,034	Lumber.....feet..	250,699	110,858
Cattle.....head..	456	897	Molascult.....tons..	522	1,300
Charcoal.....bags..	36,019	37,811	Pigs.....no..	800	723
Coconuts.....no..	1,010,851	1,327,340	Railway sleepers.....do..	4,325	856
Cocon.....lbs..	17,730	58,174	Ricemeal.....tons..	152	229
Coffee.....do..	453,212	172,185	Rice.....lbs..	22,466,564	15,071,293
Copra.....do..	177,986	178,539	Rubber.....do..	9,579	1,979
Diamonds.....carats..	8,245	2,355	Rum.....proof gals..	2,965,324	2,856,978
Gold.....ozs..	23,475	39,649	Shingles.....no..	1,465,500	1,361,350
Hides.....no..	3,353	2,483	Sugar.....tons..	46,711	56,828
Leather.....lbs..	2,270	2,185	Timber.....cubic ft..	72,432	93,933
Lime, citrate of.....do..	39,012	11,118	Woods, firewood.....tons..	7,259	5,883

The destination of the principal products was: Balata, United Kingdom, 366,765 pounds; United States, 181,205 pounds. Coconuts, United States, 603,608 nuts; Canada, 222,905 nuts; British West Indies, 180,803 nuts; and Dutch Guiana, 1,880 nuts. Copra, United Kingdom, 172,098 pounds; United States, 5,880 pounds. Lumber, United States, 25,456 feet; British West Indies, 64,083 feet; Dutch Guiana, 29,808 feet; and other countries, 131,280 feet. Rice, British West Indies, 19,687,109 pounds; French Guiana, 1,127,972 pounds; French West Indies, 1,002,000 pounds; and Dutch Guiana, 638,244 pounds. Rum, United Kingdom, 2,836,863 gallons; Canada, 116,169 gallons. Sugar, Canada, 29,288 tons; United Kingdom, 3,107 tons; and other countries, 14,348 tons. Timber, United Kingdom, 16,827 cubic feet; United States, 3,428 cubic feet; British West Indies, 5,247 cubic feet; and other countries, 46,265 cubic feet.

Proposed Exportation of Chilean Medicines.

The manufacture and sale of medicinal preparations by the "Laboratorio Chile" of Santiago has been so successful that the firm is now preparing to export its products, according to the Boletín de la Sociedad de Fomento Fabril. A list of the articles manufactured by this company includes medicinal wines, pastilles, extracts, potassium and soda preparations, medicated soaps, and hypodermic ampoules.

TRADE EXTENSION IN THE WEST INDIES.

[Vice Consul Edward B. Cipriani, Port Antonio, Jamaica, Sept. 25.]

American manufacturers reaching out for foreign trade will find that the West Indies afford profitable markets. While these colonies have been buying American products in greatly increased quantities during the past few years, a large and inviting margin for further sales remains. With the failure of a great quantity of needed goods, usually supplied by the belligerent nations of Europe, to reach these markets, there is an excellent opportunity for trade extension. Once introduced, the right goods should be able to hold the market.

Buying Capacity Undiminished by War.

The West Indies have not suffered financially as many other countries have from the European war. With the great demand and good prices paid for sugar, cocoa, logwood, and most of the products they supply, several of them are enjoying a profitable trade, so that their buying capacity has not been diminished by the great conflict.

During the past 10 years the people of the islands have shown a marked liking for goods of American manufacture, and in some instances a distinct preference. A traveler in these countries years ago could scarcely find in the largest stores any textiles of American manufacture, but to-day they are to be had in almost every store, and some lines head the market. This favorable reception and eventual preference for American manufactures is found also in several other lines, such as motor cars, carriages, boots and shoes, etc. There is no reason why a far greater number of American manufactures should not hold a leading place in the markets of the West Indies.

Tradesmen of Islands Conservative.

The tradesmen of the West Indies are conservative. Trading with certain countries and even buying certain goods from certain firms becomes a habit. Within recent years, however, representatives of American manufacturers are credited with remarkable conversions among some of these merchants.

A leading job printer of a British colony prided himself on the fact that his best machine was 25 years old, and did "as good work as when it was new." A live American salesman called on him one day, took out pencil and paper, and showed him in figures that he was losing a considerable sum of money yearly by using a machine which needed four men to operate it, instead of a modern machine, which would require only one man. The printer bought a new machine, with marked benefit to his business.

Only American Carriages Now Used.

Years ago no American carriages could be sold in some of these colonies. "Too light; never be able to stand hard work" was the cry. Only the heavy, cumbersome local or European make was wanted. To-day none but American carriages are used in these colonies. The people learned that weight did not necessarily mean strength and wearing quality.

The early prejudice against American motor cars on this same plea of lightness was quickly overcome, and now American cars are used throughout these colonies almost exclusively.

The success that will attend the efforts of American manufacturers to win the markets of the West Indies must, to a great extent, depend on the representatives sent to these colonies. Poor impressions sometimes made by salesmen have been unsatisfactory and anything but factors in the promotion of trade. In more than one case prejudice has remained for a long time, and it has been hard work to remove it and restore confidence. The day of the noisy, self-advertising commercial traveler has long gone by, at least in these countries, and the cultured, courteous representative is the type wanted.

Social Courtesy Important.

The merchants of these colonies are men who have built up their firms through years of thrift and close attention to business, and who hold the respect of the communities in which they live.

As in most tropical countries their people have a leisurely way of doing business. They like to "take it easy," to talk things over. Often the ability to add social courtesy to business efficiency is the surest method of getting business, and the commercial traveler who may be introduced to their social clubs or to their homes is not unusually the man who will book the most orders. A representative of one large American house closed in a half hour, "over the tea cups," a contract on which he had been working unsuccessfully for days at the business office. Many an order obtained on the cool veranda of a tropical clubhouse after lunch would not have been given elsewhere.

It is well to remember that the language spoken in most of the West Indies is our own. Comfortable steamships on regular schedules run between the United States and these countries and also in the intercolonial service. Postal and cable facilities are good, and smaller mercantile communities in the country districts of the several colonies are reached by railroad or motor car over excellent roads. Traveling expenses are low and hotel accommodations good and cheap, with every facility and courtesy extended to American commercial travelers at the various ports of the West Indies.

EXTRACTING KAURI GUM OIL IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 22.]

A company has been organized to extract kauri gum oil from peat taken from the swamps in the northern part of the North Island, where kauri gum has been mined for many years.

Some years ago, a company was formed for this purpose and machinery installed and the plant was worked for some time, but not with favorable results, since the methods adopted and the machinery installed were not well suited for the work, so it was given up for a time.

It is claimed that the peat yields 20 to 30 gallons per ton, of which about 25 per cent resembles gasoline or benzine, which is being used for motor cars and launches at this time. The remainder contains some 28 different kinds of heavy oils, some of which make exceptionally good varnishing material.

It is stated that in the north of this island are found extensive beds containing much fine kauri gum particles, and are rich in materials producing this kauri gum oil, as well as kauri gum that may be extracted from the deposits.

CHINESE PURCHASES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

[Vice Consul Walter A. Adams, Shanghai, Aug. 23.]

Exporters of sporting arms and ammunition in the United States have an opportunity at present to develop an already growing business with China. The abundance of game throughout this country, with the consequent popularity of hunting as a sport, creates considerable demand for such supplies. Pheasant and duck shooting is especially popular in the Yangtse Valley, while there is big-game hunting in more remote regions of the country.

Even before European supplies were cut off by the requirements of war many sportsmen in China were beginning to express a preference for American sporting arms and ammunition, and the opportunity is now presented for crystallizing that preference into demand.

Ammunition intended for export to China should be packed in thoroughly substantial tin-lined cases. The use of large cases would slightly reduce the cost of handling, the landing charges in China being approximately \$0.305 and storage charges of the customs warehouses \$0.183 per case, regardless of size.

Misapprehension Regarding Regulations.

Letters of inquiry received by the American consulate general at Shanghai indicate that some American exporters are under a misapprehension regarding Chinese customs regulations governing the importation into China of sporting arms and ammunition.

Foreign firms in China are permitted to import sporting shot-guns and ammunition, for which they must obtain a permit from the customs authorities through their consuls. The number of sporting guns that may be imported by any one firm at one time should not exceed 6 when ordered by specified persons, whose names and addresses are reported to the customs authorities on the import application, but may not exceed 4 if not so ordered and if bought for stock. Not more than 10,000 sporting cartridges may be imported by one firm in one consignment.

While the importation of sporting rifles, revolvers, and ammunition therefor by foreign firms is not specifically provided for, they are allowed, as a special arrangement, to be imported upon the filing of a statement signed by the person for whose use they are intended, stating that they are for his personal use and are not to be resold by him.

Samples for Exhibition to Government.

Samples of military arms and ammunition, when desired for exhibition to the Chinese Government, may be imported by foreign merchants by obtaining permits therefor through their consuls. On each occasion not more than 4 rifles of any one kind and ammunition for them not exceeding 2,000 rounds in all may be imported.

It is not the practice of the Chinese customs authorities at present to grant permits covering importations of sporting arms and ammunition in advance of shipments from foreign countries. Permission to import is usually granted just prior to or at the time of the arrival of the shipment, when the importer is required to furnish a signed statement regarding the use to which the arms and ammunition are to be put.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

SEPTEMBER.

Articles	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	12,751	18,014	3,368	946	16,119	18,960
Grain.....bushels..	4,915,551	3,802,109	1,538,351	5,423,807	6,453,902	9,225,916
Flour.....barrels..	856,032	1,200,530	356,440	475,791	1,212,502	1,676,321
Iron ore.....short tons..	6,925,276	7,765,779	873,699	1,765,938	7,798,965	9,531,715
Pig iron.....do.....	2,214	10,277	2,150	.....	4,364	10,277
Lumber.....M feet..	58,349	53,064	5,271	2,980	63,720	56,034
Wheat.....bushels..	14,970,491	7,279,023	10,503,477	7,951,637	25,473,968	15,230,663
General merchandise...short tons..	27,151	53,348	11,391	4,040	38,542	57,388
Passengers.....number..	1,912	1,003	1,573	2,321	3,485	3,324
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	171,410	291,087	3,150	12,800	174,500	303,887
Soft.....do.....	1,493,836	1,728,213	59,600	143,865	1,553,436	1,872,078
Flour.....barrels..	.....	45	.....	.....	.....	45
Grain.....bushels..	.....	960	.....	.....	.....	960
Manufactured iron...short tons..	13,307	14,533	5,020	5,255	18,327	19,788
Iron ore.....do.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Salt.....barrels..	85,917	103,534	1,400	3,500	87,317	107,034
General merchandise...short tons..	167,358	122,801	34,911	47,996	202,269	170,797
Passengers.....number..	1,326	833	1,339	2,089	2,665	2,922
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	7,731,306	8,358,140	1,286,465	2,165,783	9,017,771	10,523,923
Westbound.....do.....	1,858,799	2,172,185	102,881	210,416	1,961,680	2,382,601
Total.....	9,590,105	10,530,325	1,389,346	2,376,199	10,979,451	12,906,524
Vessel passages.....number..	2,521	2,521	620	918	3,141	3,439
Registered tonnage.....net..	7,372,202	7,966,766	1,403,497	1,801,962	8,775,699	9,768,717

SIX MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	84,287	79,787	11,095	3,882	95,373	83,669
Grain.....bushels..	15,182,964	29,954,697	10,321,399	31,363,789	25,604,353	61,318,486
Flour.....barrels..	3,578,119	4,306,128	1,512,988	2,225,761	5,091,107	6,533,889
Iron ore.....short tons..	31,917,842	36,018,634	1,843,870	9,351,416	33,781,752	47,370,350
Pig iron.....do.....	2,214	29,896	4,700	.....	6,914	29,896
Lumber.....M feet..	318,819	240,703	24,249	10,698	353,068	251,399
Wheat.....bushels..	46,016,570	93,285,181	20,522,156	63,450,703	66,538,726	156,735,884
General merchandise...short tons..	118,302	171,565	93,069	50,419	211,371	221,984
Passengers.....number..	12,728	11,995	12,482	15,131	25,210	27,126
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	1,410,101	1,585,671	38,633	73,810	1,448,734	1,609,481
Soft.....do.....	7,843,098	10,277,017	262,385	753,161	8,106,163	11,030,176
Flour.....barrels..	100	270	.....	12,960	100	13,230
Grain.....bushels..	31,260	4,710	.....	.....	31,250	4,710
Manufactured iron...short tons..	120,975	103,626	18,162	12,815	134,137	116,441
Iron ore.....do.....	.....	14,479	.....	14,448	.....	28,927
Salt.....barrels..	462,900	530,202	18,270	42,287	481,170	572,489
General merchandise...short tons..	691,739	701,142	190,636	236,731	882,375	937,873
Passengers.....number..	12,475	11,222	11,484	18,162	23,969	26,384
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	34,751,977	42,517,627	2,987,761	12,127,997	37,739,738	54,645,624
Westbound.....do.....	10,136,459	12,711,571	507,406	1,068,302	10,643,865	13,909,673
Total.....	44,888,436	55,229,198	3,495,167	13,226,299	48,383,603	68,455,497
Vessel passages.....number..	12,139	13,732	2,788	5,063	14,907	18,845
Registered tonnage.....net..	33,703,878	41,716,137	4,875,120	9,985,103	38,578,986	51,701,240

SICILY'S FOREIGN TRADE IN CITRUS FRUITS.

[Consul Joseph E. Haven, Catania, Italy, July 24.]

The cultivation of citrus fruits and their exportation and conversion into by-products are important features of industry in Italy and particularly in Sicily. In this division of the Kingdom it is estimated that they furnish employment to 25 per cent of the population.

In order of importance the citrus fruits of Italy are the ordinary lemon, bitter or wild orange, sweet orange, mandarin, citron, bergamot orange, lime, and grape fruit.

Italy Ranks Third in Production.

From the standpoint of production Italy ranks third among the nations of the world, with a percentage of 25, being exceeded by the United States and Spain, each of which has a percentage of 30. The remaining 15 per cent of the world's production is distributed among several countries.

There is very little, if any, waste, as the wood of the trees is used in the local manufacture of furniture; the foliage, steeped in alcohol, furnishes an extract used in the preparation of perfumery; the flowers supply tinctures and sirups as well as essential oils, such as that obtained from the orange for the manufacture of neroli and the oil from the citron for the manufacture of Hungary water; and the fruit is used for either fresh consumption or candies or for conversion into by-products.

Of the by-products citrate of lime and the essential oils lead, the former (for which the demand always exceeds the supply) being used in the manufacture of citric acid, the latter group for flavoring extracts, perfumes, pharmaceutical purposes, soaps, etc. The Italian production of citrate of lime is about seven-eighths of the world's production.

Relative Areas Devoted to Oranges and Lemons.

Generally speaking, four-fifths of the area laid down is in lemons and one-fifth in oranges. A fairly correct estimate of cultivation in 1915 therefore would be: Citrus cultivation, 114,653 acres; lemons, 91,723 acres; oranges, 22,930 acres. On an average there are about 200 lemon trees per acre, the number depending on whether the trees are on the hills, in the watercourses or on the lowlands. There are fewer trees per acre on hard ground than on friable soil such as prevails in the Provinces of Catania and Syracuse.

The normal lemon tree should bear about 500 lemons of the ordinary type and 500 verdelli lemons per year. The verdelli is an abnormal product peculiar to southern Italy, and is obtained during the summer months. As the name implies, it is green in color and grows contemporaneously on the same tree with the ordinary yellow lemon of commerce.

In the production of the verdelli lemon, the tree, which flowers in April, is kept without water from that period until July, when the roots are heavily flooded for a time. This results in a second set of blossoms from which will come the verdelli fruit. The ordinary lemon crop is picked in the months beginning with October, but the verdelli will not mature until the following May. Two crops a year are thus obtained from a tree, although the verdelli lemon has

a much thicker skin than the ordinary lemon, and its acidity is of a lesser degree. It is picked and shipped green, but becomes yellow during transit.

War Has Decreased Exports of Fresh Fruit.

The production of lemons for the past two seasons' was: In 1914-15—Sicily, 369,500 tons; total Italian, 426,900 tons; in 1915-16—Sicily, 388,200 tons; total Italian, 440,200 tons. In normal times, about two-thirds of the lemons are exported in boxes while the remaining one-third is worked up into by-products, but since the beginning of the war with closed and restricted markets, and high freights, exports of fresh fruit have greatly diminished, and a greater percentage of lemons has been employed for the manufacture of by-products. It is estimated that the new lemon crop (1916-17) will be about the same as that of 1915-16.

The principal foreign markets in normal times in the order of their importance, with the percentages of fruit taken, are: United States, 30 per cent; Great Britain, 15; Austria, 15; Germany, 15; Russia, 8; other countries, 17.

The Italian export tax on lemons amounts to a few centesimi per box at the rate of 18 centesimi per quintal of 100 kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds; centesimi=\$0.00155). The rate of exchange used is that of the date of this report.

Methods of Financing Lemon Shipments.

In financing lemon shipments from this district to the United States, letters of credit on London or credits on American banks, which play such an important part in the general exportation from Italy to the United States, are not used to a great extent, probably because the value of the individual shipment is not large. The average is between several hundred dollars and \$2,000 to \$3,000, although it is comparatively seldom that the higher figures are reached. The necessarily limited time for transportation, the possibility that the American market may be glutted, and a certain element of speculation to the sales have a direct bearing on the situation.

In the majority of cases lemons are sold "to order" for New York, and the New York agent of the Sicilian exporter handles the goods on a commission basis. The exporter receives the proceeds of the sale from his agent in the form of a draft in Italian lire, not in dollars or English pounds sterling. The next most popular form of sale is when lemons are purchased by a named importer. In that case the operation is completed by a simple draft.

[An article on the lemon situation in the Catania district was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 13, 1915.]

HOLLAND USING MORE SESAME SEED.

[Paul L. Edwards, secretary to commercial attaché, The Hague, Sept. 18.]

Increasingly large quantities of sesame seed are being imported into Holland as a substitute for other oil-bearing seeds the importation of which is restricted. The total arrivals in Holland during the first six months of this year were 10,586 metric tons, the July arrivals were 5,285 tons and the August 10,832 tons. This seed is being crushed in the linseed mills; the oil is being used in margarine factories and the cake feed to cattle.

CHILE'S PURCHASES OF FOREIGN MOTOR CARS.

[R. de F. Boomer, secretary to Commercial Attaché, Santiago.]

The growth of the automobile business in Chile has been remarkable in that it has not been hampered apparently by the nonimprovement of the roads. Although touring is looked upon more as a motor test than a pleasure, and a trip between Santiago and Valparaiso is still considered worthy of newspaper comment, the increase in importations has been great. This is shown by comparing the totals for 1908, 1909, and 1910, which were \$14,054, \$11,760, and \$26,971, respectively, with the totals for 1913 and 1915, which were \$494,355 and \$302,813. The following table shows these latter figures in detail:

Imported from—	1913	1915	Imported from—	1913	1915
United States	\$44,169	\$202,498	Italy	\$46,687	\$16,649
Argentina	84,698	25,290	Peru	812	.....
Belgium	21,150	2,971	Spain .....	.....	1,660
France	114,804	26,201			
Germany	115,212	2,721	Total	494,355	302,813
Great Britain	67,213	24,823			

Preferred Types of Cars.

At present there are about 1,300 cars in Santiago, between three and four hundred of them being used as taxicabs at a charge of \$1.10 an hour, or about \$0.22 a trip, within certain specified limits, for one person. These taxicabs are owned either by companies or by the driver himself. They are sold largely on the installment plan.

As there are very few trips that can be taken outside the city, the most popular cars for private use are gasoline broughams, limousines, and landaulets, although it can not be said that any single type or style predominates. Importations from abroad have included cars from several countries and of many different makes. Superficially, there would seem to be a preference for a decorative finish, and almost all the cars are ornamented with small brass figures over the radiator. Black and dark blue cars should be sent only on special order. The underslung type is rarely seen, as it is not practicable on Chilean roads and streets. The prospect of better roads is not particularly encouraging, although there is some talk of building one between Santiago and Valparaiso. In such a case there should be an increased demand for touring automobiles.

Runabouts Not Well Liked—Electric Vehicles.

Two-seated runabouts are not common, and when seen generally have a small seat behind for the chauffeur. This is demanded by custom, for even though the owner of the car is driving he must always have the chauffeur with him in case of need, as it would never do for the owner to change a tire or to crank the machine himself.

Furthermore, a car is usually left with a chauffeur to avoid the possibility of having some part of it stolen or the machine injured. The regular American two-seated runabout is, therefore, not popular as the capacity is limited to one passenger besides the chauffeur. American runabouts with a third seat behind, which could be folded into the body when not in use, thus giving the car a smarter appearance, should find a market.

Another undeveloped field is in electrics. The case is somewhat similar to that of the two-seated runabout, but an electric brougham, with a separate compartment for the driver, should be well adapted

for use in Santiago. No electricians have been seen in this city. Their introduction would be hindered at first by the lack of proper repair mechanics and charging facilities.

There should also be a limited market for a smart, high-priced American car of the limousine type.

Trucks and Motor Buses—Cost of Gasoline.

Trucks are not used to any extent in the central and southern part of the country and the low cost of hauling by oxcart and wagon would limit their introduction. In the nitrate fields, however, they have begun to be used with apparently good results. There, where fodder and mules must be imported and labor is expensive, the truck should be able to compete.

A motor-bus service was attempted in Santiago recently but the company failed. Street-car fares here are very low—2 cents first-class and 1 cent second-class.

Gasoline was formerly subject to great fluctuations in price, according to the supply on hand, but at present the West India Oil Co. carries a stock and quotes prices that vary with exchange but are steady in comparison with former times. The maximum price paid during the past few months for the best grade of gasoline was \$5.45 per case of two 5-gallon tins. Cheaper grades are sold and used by the taxicabs.

[A list of Santiago importers of automobiles and of the garages located in that city may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1834.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.	Colombo, Ceylon.	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Oshorne, John Ball.	Havre, France.	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland.	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.	Bristol, England.		1200 Entaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T. ^a	Seville, Spain.	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E. ^b	Georgetown, Guiana.		
Spahr, Herman L. ^c	Montevideo, Uruguay.		C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.

^a Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

^b Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

^c Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Chemicals, No. 22664.—An American consular officer in Switzerland transmits the name of a business man in his district who desires to communicate with American firms with a view to obtaining their agencies for Switzerland in chemicals and other lines for which a market might be found in that country. References.

General agency, No. 22665.—A business man from Venezuela, who is now in the United States, desires to establish an American "bazar" and general agency for American goods in his country. He is particularly interested in machinery and tool of all kinds, especially agricultural, table and kitchen ware, textiles of all kinds, interior decoration and construction materials, automobiles and trucks, locomotives, rails, etc., and California wines, cognac, and whiskies. References.

General representation, No. 22666.—The Bureau is informed that a man in the Netherlands desires to represent American manufacturers of hardware, sanitary appliances, felt, packing, machinery, tools, metals, technical products, heating and lighting apparatus, chemicals, paints, building materials, shipbuilding materials, and automobiles.

Cotton yarn, No. 22667.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm in his district desires to be placed in touch with American exporters of "Jaenowich," "Sea Island," "Sacalaries," and "Scotch linen" yarn for knitting purposes. The "Scotch-linen" quality to be of 60/2, 80/2, 100/2, and 120/2 finish. Correspondence in English. Reference.

Machinery, No. 22668.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Chile writes that a firm in that country desires to communicate with American manufacturers of machines for making cardboard boxes.

Carnauba wax, No. 22669.—A firm in Italy informs an American consular officer that it desires to place an order in the United States for carnauba wax. Samples and prices should be sent and quotations made either c. l. f. Italian port or f. o. b. New York. Correspondence in English.

Dry goods and notions, No. 22670.—A representative of a firm in the West Indies is in this country for the purpose of buying all kinds of dry goods and notions. Reference.

Dress goods and stationery, No. 22671.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in India desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of dress goods and stationery.

Stationery, No. 22672.—A commercial agent of the Bureau transmits the name and address of a commission agent in Porto Rico who desires to communicate with American manufacturers of stationery. References.

Toys, No. 22673.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that a business man in his district is in the market for toys of all kinds. Catalogues, prices, and full information are desired.

Machinery, No. 22674.—A man in Portugal informs an American consular officer of his desire to purchase machinery for the complete installation of a flour mill capable of grinding 7,000 to 7,500 kilos of wheat in 24 hours (automatic grinding). Correspondence in Portuguese or French.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

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Washington, D. C., Friday, October 13

1916

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CONTROL OF WHEAT SUPPLY FOR ALLIES.

[Cablegram from the American Consulate General, London, England.]

Royal Commission appointed to purchase, sell, and control delivery of wheat and flour will operate in conjunction with allies. Australian wheat purchased and Australian Government furnishing government-owned ships for transport. General stocks will be imported in requisitioned tonnage at fixed rates.

PROBABLE WINE PRODUCTION IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 11.]

The condition of the vineyards of Spain is reported on the whole as excellent, and recent rains have had a favorable effect on the grapes, which are abundant. An unofficial estimate places the probable yield in wine at over 554,758,000 gallons. Allowing 317,004,600 gallons for domestic consumption and 52,834,100 gallons for alcohol distillation, there will remain a surplus of 184,919,300 gallons for export.

SPANISH WHEAT AND CORN IMPORTS IN JULY.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 1.]

According to statistics published by the Spanish Director General of Customs, 15,393 metric tons of wheat passed through the Spanish customhouses during the month of July, 1916. [Metric ton=2,204.6 pounds.] With the exception of 2½ tons this wheat came from the United States, more than half having been shipped at New York. Nearly 7,000 tons were discharged at the port of Barcelona, the rest going to Bilbao and Valencia.

There were about 3,000 tons of corn received from Buenos Aires at different Spanish ports during the same month.

CANADA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION FOR HALF YEAR.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Oct. 6.]

The returns of production for the first six months of 1916, made to the Ontario Bureau of Mines by the metalliferous mines and works of the Province, are summarized in the following table, which also gives comparative quantities and values for the corresponding period of 1915:

Products.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.
Gold..... ounces..	173,021	235,060	\$3,570,072	\$4,822,740
Silver..... do.....	11,101,909	10,267,743	5,188,763	6,188,260
Copper..... pounds..		77,795		14,368
Cobalt, metallic..... do.....		121,817		103,677
Nickel, metallic..... do.....		13,933		5,890
Molybdenic concentrates..... do.....		12,631		13,075
Cobalt and nickel oxides..... do.....	141,500	401,406	56,812	204,628
Copper in matte..... tons..	8,523	11,426	1,704,680	2,295,086
Nickel..... do.....	15,182	20,651	7,541,000	10,325,766
Iron ore..... do.....	134,077	60,698	288,286	243,268
Pig iron..... do.....	225,940	295,349	2,856,040	4,424,496

CROP PROSPECTS IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Sept. 25.]

There are no official crop statistics or forecasts in Venezuela, but reports from all over the country indicate that the rainfall has been better distributed this season than in any recent year. Damage by grasshoppers has been much less than usual and not only the coffee and cocoa crops but also those of beans, maize, and potatoes are said to be in fine condition and promise extraordinary yields. Recent exports of coffee and cocoa have been, in tons: Coffee—1911, 44,298 tons; 1912, 53,036; 1913, 64,418; 1914, 55,044; and 1915, 62,581. Cocoa—1911, 17,583 tons; 1912, 10,600; 1913, 17,897; 1914, 16,886; and 1915, 18,281.

Last year harvests (1916 exports) were poor, and as Venezuela is almost entirely an agricultural country the present favorable outlook promises a large increase in purchasing power. If the price of cocoa holds at present levels and that of coffee improves, imports for 1917 will probably equal or surpass those of the record year of 1912, when \$20,500,000 worth of foreign goods were purchased.

PARCEL POST BETWEEN SPAIN AND SALVADOR.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Sept. 11.]

The Governments of Spain and Salvador have agreed to a reciprocal parcel-post service. Parcels may weigh up to 5 kilos (11.02 pounds) and the new arrangement will undoubtedly be a means of facilitating trade between the two countries. In this connection it may be noted that the United States has no parcel-post service with Spain, the lack of which is keenly felt daily. To overcome this difficulty small packages are sometimes sent from the United States to Spain by letter post, which is contrary to Spanish postal regulations and results in heavy fines for the addressees.

OUTPUT OF INDIA'S COTTON MILLS.

Figures compiled by the Indian Department of Statistics from accounts rendered by mill owners and covering the output of cotton spinning and weaving mills in British India and the Native States show the following production during the three months ended June, 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Articles.	Three months ending June—		
	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Cotton yarn, spun	174,114,969	180,621,741	171,790,475
Gray and bleached piece goods	54,992,487	65,651,917	72,019,949
Colored piece goods	14,066,416	15,834,257	21,558,153
Gray and colored goods other than piece goods	422,984	425,803	631,120
Hosiery	57,437	49,016	75,631
Miscellaneous goods	62,550	119,496	191,811
Total woven goods	69,001,854	82,080,492	94,477,055

Estimated from the poundage on a conventional basis the foregoing figures represent an output of gray and bleached piece goods of 235,890,059 yards in the three months ending June, 1914; 276,496,500 yards in the like period of 1915; and 297,499,994 yards in April-June, 1916; and of colored piece goods, for the corresponding three-month periods, of 60,263,241 yards, 66,864,915 yards, and 95,253,547 yards, respectively.

"DAYLIGHT SAVING" SUCCESSFUL IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

[Consul General Albert Halstead, Vienna, Sept. 25.]

At midnight on September 30, 1916, all the watches and clocks in Austria-Hungary will be put back one hour, and the first period of "Sommerzeit" (summer time) will have ended. This began at midnight April 30, 1916, when all timepieces were advanced one hour. The plan, whose purpose was the securing of additional sunlight in working hours, has proved successful in the highest degree. For the health of the people it has been of the greatest advantage. In the saving of lighting it has also been most satisfactory. It is calculated that in Vienna alone the people consumed 4,500,000 cubic meters (158,915,200 cubic feet) less of gas and saved 700,000 crowns (\$142,000), while the city itself required 400,000 cubic meters (14,125,800 cubic feet) of gas less for street lighting.

COAL SUPPLIES OF BRAZILIAN LLOYD.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 5.]

A statement published by the Lloyd Brasileiro, giving data regarding the supplies of coal held by the company in Para, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Florianapolis, Rio Grande, and Montevideo, or in transit to those ports, shows a total of 47,771 tons. It is stated that the stock in Rio de Janeiro (24,550 tons) is the largest in Brazil and was acquired at \$20.95 a ton, the current price being \$23. It is further stated that no orders for coal are pending at present, but that bids will soon be solicited by the directorate of the company. In 1915 the company imported 151,322 tons of coal from New York.

BRITISH YOUTHS TO STUDY RUSSIAN INDUSTRIES.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England. Sept. 28.]

For more than a year classes in the Russian language have been conducted by the public schools of Bradford. More students have been enrolled than anywhere else in the United Kingdom with the exception of London. Many pupils also are taking private courses of instruction, and the United Foreign Circles in Bradford—a society holding weekly lectures and discussions in foreign languages—has now added a Russian section to its list.

The director of education in Bradford has recently organized another movement which, in addition to the teaching of Russian, also proposes to place promising students in touch with life and actual business conditions in Russia by giving them a year's residence there. During that time they are to be under supervision, and to be afforded facilities not only for studying the language, but also for becoming acquainted with the industries of the country, its business methods, and the requirements of the people.

Lectures on Russian Law and Commerce.

A course of lectures is to be given at one of the principal educational institutions or universities on Russian jurisprudence, commercial practice, and methods of trade. British consuls are to be asked to give assistance to the students by directing them to the proprietors of leading shops, bazaars, and industrial concerns, so that they may acquire first-hand knowledge of what the Russian people are most likely to purchase.

The students will be expected periodically to send reports to those who are defraying their expenses, and it is hoped that afterwards they will remain associated with the textile industries or become agents for British firms in Russia, and so be the means of greatly developing the exports of textile manufacturers of that country.

The directors of the Bradford Dyers' Association (Ltd.) have given the plan a start by offering to provide 10 traveling scholarships, to cover the cost of traveling and a year's residence in Russia. The only condition they have made is that the candidates must be connected with the Bradford or Manchester piece-goods trade. It is expected that other firms or associations will do likewise, and later the scheme may be extended by the exchange of a certain number of students between Bradford and some industrial center in Russia.

Interest in Russo-British Chamber of Commerce.

The formation recently of a Russo-British Chamber of Commerce in London is a matter in which the West Riding of Yorkshire is deeply interested, as the chairman of the temporary executive council is Sir Algernon Firth, president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, and a member of a large firm of carpet manufacturers at Bailiff Bridge and Heckmondwike, near Bradford.

[Articles on the teaching of the Russian language in Great Britain were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 10 and Aug. 21, 1916.]

The building permits issued in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, for the first nine months of the present year numbered 416, with a valuation of \$1,088,580, compared with 209 permits with a valuation of \$395,235 for the corresponding period in 1915.

SIAMESE CROPS OTHER THAN RICE.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 15.]

Rice is the most important by far of the crops raised in Siam, but efforts are now being made to give more attention to other agricultural products. A recently issued official report contains the following data about crops other than rice:

The planting of cotton in the district of Krung Kao for last season amounted to 800 rai (320 acres), and the harvesting was finished in April, but the yield was only 1 picul (133.3 pounds) to the rai (333.3 pounds to the acre), while in the district of Bhisnuloke the harvesting of 6,700 rai (2,680 acres) yielded 3 piculs per rai (1,000 pounds per acre). The price of raw cotton was \$2.22 per picul (\$1.67 per 100 pounds), but in Utara 65 piculs were sold at \$1.85 per picul (\$1.39 per 100 pounds). The cotton produced last year was used locally.

Harvesting of last season's tobacco crop had nearly been completed in April of this year. The area under cultivation in six districts was 22,710 rai (9,084 acres), the average yield amounting to about 1 picul per rai and the local selling price ranging from \$11 to \$37 per picul (from \$8.25 to \$27.75 per 100 pounds). Other districts were yet to be heard from.

In the district of Chandaburi the area for pepper planting has been extended and the present crop is doing well. The local price for black pepper is \$12 to \$13 per picul (\$9 to \$9.75 per 100 pounds), while white pepper brings \$17 to \$19 per picul (\$12.75 to \$14.25 per 100 pounds). During April 727 piculs (96,933 pounds) were sold to Bangkok. At Stul, in the district of Puket, 3,258 rai (1,303 acres) were under cultivation, and the price for black pepper was about \$9 per picul (\$6.75 per 100 pounds).

Extensive new coconut plantations are to be opened in the district of Chandaburi and in the northern part of Siam, where the new railway extension will afford better transportation facilities than formerly. In the districts of Surashtra, Nagor Sridharmaraj, Patani, and Puket coconut cultivation is an industry of increasing importance. The present condition of the trees is good, although the beetles are doing some damage in certain places.

NEW PORT IN THE PROVINCE OF COLON.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Sept. 30.]

The new port of Mandinga on Mandinga Bay in the Gulf of San Blas, some 80 miles east of the city of Colon, was opened and the corner stone of a new government building laid on September 26, 1916, with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of the governor of the Province of Colon and other officials. The new port, which has an excellent harbor with deep water, is only a short distance from the Mandinga Manganese Ore Mines, owned by an American syndicate, as reported in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for March 1, 1916. A few hundred yards from the new port is the site of a town to be known as Nicuesa, which it is proposed to build on a large tract of land to be developed under a concession granted to an American citizen long resident in Colon.

VARIOUS TEXTILES IN SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN.

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Switzerland, Aug. 30.]

The possibility of developing a market in the Geneva consular district for certain textiles like velveteens, corduroys, and such pile fabrics as astrakhans, plushes, mohairs, and silk fabrics has been investigated recently. Velveteen formerly came and is still coming from England, whereas Germany has prohibited the exportation of that article for the present. A small quantity comes from France. There are similar conditions for corduroys for women's wear, astrakhan, and plushes. Mohairs come from Bradford, England. Silk fabrics sold here are made in Switzerland, France, and Germany. Imports of worsteds are limited, as the fabric does not seem to be extensively used here.

Silk fabrics and ribbons are handled here by special wholesale importers, who sell to such retailers as warehouses, dry-goods stores, and haberdashers, which also import direct from the factories.

According to the Swiss customs tariff, paragraphs 447b and 449, silk fabrics and ribbons, whole silk or half silk, pay 100 francs per 100 kilos, gross weight only (\$19.30 per 220.46 pounds); if unpacked, a special tax of 30 per cent is added. According to paragraphs 360 to 370, cotton fabrics pay from 10 to 65 francs (\$1.93 to \$12.54) per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds), according to quality, gross weight; for net weight, 15 per cent more.

The usual terms of sale in Switzerland are from 60 to 90 days' credit, with generally 2 per cent discount for payment within 30 days after date of invoice, but at present any terms may be accepted owing to the difficulties encountered in obtaining merchandise.

[A list of dry goods store, milliners, seamstresses, haberdashers, and dealers in silk fabrics, corduroys, velveteens, astrakhans, mohairs, plushes, worsteds, and cotton fabrics in Geneva may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80426.]

[Vice Consul Jacob Bagge, Stockholm, Sweden, Aug. 28.]

Present Conditions Create Market.

Silk and cotton velvet, plushes, and silk mohairs before the war were imported into Sweden from Switzerland, England, France, and Germany. At present there is a market for them here, but the volume of trade to be obtained depends upon ability to compete with other foreign countries in prices and qualities. Swedish manufacturers make very cheap corduroys for women's wear, so it is impossible to import those goods. Underwear of the finer qualities may have a market if the prices are satisfactory. The best course for manufacturers and exporters is to have an agent who is so situated that he can take up the business with the importing firms. It is useless for manufacturers or exporters to send offers and samples to firms here, because at the time the samples are sent the firms may not need them. It is more advantageous to have an agent who calls on the firms regularly, and is always in touch with them and knows their requirements.

A Stockholm man who is interested in representing this class of trade suggests that in seeking trade in this district it would be advisable for American manufacturers or exporters to put up a stock of goods on a commission basis. The retailers buy only small amounts at

a time, and by this means they could be supplied when in need of goods. The agent who makes the suggestion has been in the business for 30 years and is well acquainted with the trade.

[The name and address of the agent mentioned and the names of importers and wholesale dealers in the goods mentioned, at Stockholm, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80360.]

COAL FIELDS OF PARANÁ.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 4.]

Coal in large quantities exists in the State of Paraná, in the districts known as Pirahy, Thomazina, and Tibagy, about 30 miles from the railway station of São José, on the São Paulo-Rio Grande Railway. Some results have been obtained with it in Rio de Janeiro in the manufacture of briquets.

The Itavera Mine property, situated on the Rio do Peixe, contains about 4,000 hectares (9,884 acres) of land. This region is populated. It is on the left bank of the Rio do Peixe, to which there is free passage for carts. A road extends from the station of São José (branch of the Paranapanema São Paulo-Rio Grande Railway) to the property called Cafesal-Barra Bonita, a distance of about 24 miles. From there to Itavera it is about 11 miles by the mule track. The soil of the road is heavy sand. There are no swamps.

From Itavera there is a cart road as far as Pirahy, passing through Caeté, a distance of about 54 miles.

This property has been visited and examined by the São Paulo-Rio Grande Co., whose engineers made about 68 soundings, and they report that they found coal everywhere in seams measuring on an average 83 centimeters (2.72 feet) thick. They calculate a yield of about 5,000 tons per hectare (hectare=2.471 acres). The coal is described as of the same quality as that of Barra Bonita.

[An extended article on coal and fuel oil in Brazil was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 6, 1913.]

RECENT PRICES IN CHINESE EXPORT MARKET.

[Consul J. Paul Jameson, Nanking, Sept. 1.]

Returns recently compiled by the Chamber of Commerce show the prices on various articles that figure in the export market of Nanking. The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight, excluding cost of packing for export. The rate is per picul of 133½ pounds, and the figures given are in terms of United States currency, with conversion at the rate of \$0.50 to the Mexican dollar. The prices for the principal articles are:

Articles.	Prices.	Articles.	Prices.	Articles.	Prices.
Beans:		Hides, buffalo:		Seed, sesamum—Con.	
Blue	\$3.25	First quality	\$25.00	Yellow	\$4.00
White	3.00	Second quality	17.50	Sesamum-seed oil	8.10
Yellow	2.90	Seed, sesamum:		Tallow, animal	9.50
Bean oil	7.20	Black	4.00	Vegetable tallow:	
Groundnuts	2.80	Red	4.00	Green	7.50
Groundnut oil	7.50	White	4.50	White	7.50
Hides, cow	32.50				

CONDENSED MILK IN BERMUDA.

[Vice Consul S. W. Eells, Hamilton, Sept. 29.]

Bermuda annually imports some 15,000 cases (720,000 tins) of condensed milk, of which about 15 per cent is unsweetened or evaporated. There are only two dairies here, and, although there are quite a few privately owned cows and goats, because the pasturage is poor the majority of the people of the colony rely on condensed or evaporated milk. Recently a movement has been set on foot to regulate the fresh-milk trade from a sanitary standpoint, but the cost of fodder will never allow fresh milk to be produced at a price which Bermudians in general could afford.

That the milk problem is considered a serious one is shown by the fact that local newspapers have published a number of articles on condensed milk—how it is made, its uses, especially as an infant's food—and its uniformity in quality as compared with fresh milk. One of these articles closes: "We could enlarge on the uses of evaporated and condensed milk, but probably it will be as well to let the makers tell their own stories in our advertising columns."

Canadian and European Brands Favored.

Evaporated milk stands the climate here and rarely, if ever, goes bad. The American brands of unsweetened milk are regarded by most dealers as the best, but there is a prejudice among the consumers in favor of Canadian and European.

Nearly all of the sweetened condensed milk comes from Europe, but of late years some has been imported from Canada. Both the European and the Canadian brands have given satisfaction. (Canadian condensed milk, in order to be of legal standard, must contain 7.7 per cent of fat, and it seldom hardens or otherwise deteriorates.) With few exceptions, however, American sweetened milk has become hard or the tins have swelled. These faults do not obtain in the American evaporated or unsweetened milk, which is sterilized.

During the last few months, it is stated, the European companies, being unable to fill orders with European milk because of the increased consumption in Europe and difficulty in transportation generally, have been having condensed milk manufactured for them in the United States and packed under their established labels, omitting, however, the words "Prepared in England," "Switzerland," "Holland," etc. This milk is inferior in every way. Over 90 per cent of the last importation was returned to the United States.

The European companies have resident agents in Bermuda, and within the past 18 months local agencies have been established by two Canadian firms. Only one American company of importance maintains an agency in the colony. Its milk is kept well up to standard, but the prices asked militate against sales.

Sales Campaign Recommended—Prices.

It would seem that now is an opportune time for American condensed-milk firms to make a vigorous campaign to secure a larger share of the Bermuda trade. In order to do this it is strongly recommended either that local agencies be established or that firms send their salesmen to Bermuda more frequently, with the view not only of selling to dealers, but also of overcoming the prejudice of con-

sumers. This means that American sweetened condensed milk must compare favorably with the Canadian and true European in quality and that the retail prices must at least be the same.

Current wholesale prices, per case, c. i. f. Bermuda, are: Condensed, 25 to 26s. (\$6.10 to \$6.35); evaporated, 15 to 16s. (\$3.65 to \$3.90). Condensed milk retails at 7 to 8d. (\$0.14 to \$0.16) per tin and evaporated at 6d. (\$0.12). Strictly speaking, there are no wholesale grocers in the colony, but the larger stores in Hamilton distribute to the smaller ones throughout the islands.

[A list of Bermuda firms in position to handle condensed milk as dealers or agents may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 80001.]

MANGROVE SUPPLIES IN PORTO RICO.

[Harwood Hull, correspondent, San Juan.]

Mangrove grows in sea water in marshes along the coast of Porto Rico, and in many places is abundant. There are several varieties, called by different names, some of which are sources of tannic acid. Although the bark is sometimes used locally in tanning processes, so far as can be learned there has never been any attempt to make mangrove a source of commercial tannic acid.

One variety of mangrove, generally known here as "mangle zapatero," or "shoemaker's mangle," is considered to be the best variety for tanning and dyeing, and the extracted juice may also be used to neutralize the effect of salt water used in steam boilers. Frequently quantities of bark are thrown into a boiler to prevent "caking" on the pipes.

All of the varieties of mangrove grow slowly and the "mangle zapatero" produces a knotty, brittle wood. Two other varieties, known as "chifle de vaca" and "botoncillo," produce a tough, fairly straight wood, free from knots, and is believed to be suitable for tool handles or spokes for carriages and other vehicles.

Product Has Never Been Marketed.

Although this product has never been marketed, a price of \$65 to \$70 per ton, f. o. b. port of Mayaguez, P. R., has been quoted, packing either in sacks or otherwise, for the account of the purchaser. For the wood itself, cut in 2-foot lengths and air dried, a process which requires approximately two weeks, a price of \$1.25 per hundred pieces has been quoted. It is probable that these prices could be lowered for large orders for contract delivery and after persons had an opportunity to become familiar with the preparation of either the wood or the bark. The supply should be abundant and constant.

Three samples of "mangle zapatero" are sent from the following districts: La Pitahaya, Lajas, P. R.; La Palguera, Lajas, P. R.; Puerto Real, Cabo Rojo, P. R. The following samples are also sent: "Mangle chifle de vaca," from Puerto Real, Cabo Rojo, P. R. (not seasoned); "mangle botoncillo," Puerto Real, Cabo Rojo, P. R. (not seasoned); "mangle botoncillo," from La Palguera, Lajas, P. R. (seasoned).

[The samples mentioned may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1039.]

BRAZIL EXPECTS CATTLE INDUSTRY TO EXPAND.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 6.]

Preparations for the congress of cattlemen to take place soon in Brazil have directed the attention of public and press toward cattle raising, an extremely vital subject in Brazilian economics. The idea held abroad that only the southern portions of the country are fit for cattle raising has caused considerable annoyance to Brazilians, in view of the fact that there are large cattle interests practically all over the country, and land suitable for extensive development throughout Central Brazil as well as in the northern and southern sections. Complaints as to the mistaken attitude of foreigners have reached this office so frequently during the past few months that I have investigated the matter thoroughly.

Suitable Tracts in State of Espirito Santo.

The acting consular agent at Victoria, in the State of Espirito Santo (Mr. Robert Langen), reports that certain districts of his State, such as the country near St. Matheus in the north and some parts of the south, are suitable for cattle raising. He states regarding the conditions:

The industry being developed as yet only to a very small extent there it is unfortunately impossible to give any census of the live stock. The quality of the original old cattle was admittedly poor, but lately the breeders have improved it considerably by crossbreeding with both zebu and caracu types.

For the improvement of the business in Espirito Santo there should be an investment of sufficient capital, qualified cattlemen and stud cattle for breeding should be sent out, and better roads and other means of transportation are needed. The State possesses excellent ports, especially that of Victoria, and exporting easily could be carried on by means of seacoast packing houses. Only neat cattle are now receiving attention, but the raising of other kinds of live stock (swine, horses, sheep, etc.) could be easily developed.

Advises Americans to Aid in Developing Industry.

The American consul at Para, Mr. George H. Pickerell, states his belief that that part of the country possesses some of the best and most suitable lands for the creating of cattle ranches to be found in Brazil, and that Americans should do their share in developing the industry. He refers to the fact that the demand for beef has been to supply only the home necessities, and that in the absence of any foreign demand there had been little or no effort to improve the grade or prepare it for foreign use. Both the State and the merchant, he says, have been compelled to give their attention largely to things like rubber and Brazil nuts, which will produce quick returns, with the result that they have not given the cattle industry the attention it deserves. Of the prospects he states:

The local cattlemen have made some efforts to improve their situation, but it will require much more before they will be able to ship their meat in competition with the rest of the world.

Para possesses large areas of land suitable for cattle raising, as do the States of Maranhao, Ceara, and Piahy. The last two mentioned States have been large shippers of hides, which would indicate that their stocks of cattle have been and are now very large.

There are no statistics to show the number of cattle in the different States, but I am told that we have on the Island of Marajo alone some 350,000 head. As yet nothing has been done toward establishing slaughterhouses or refrigeration plants for foreign shipments.

Need Strong Foreign Demand and Increased Capital.

While some attempts have been made to improve the breed of cattle, I doubt if sufficient has been accomplished to give the result a definite name or grade. In the State of Piauhy they have what is known as the "Caracó"—a breed of cattle closely resembling the Herefords, which could by the introduction of new blood be quickly brought up to a point where it would compare favorably with anything produced in Brazil. The chief necessity at present is a strong foreign demand backed up by sufficient capital to erect the necessary plants, etc.

From the consul at Bahia, Mr. Robert Frazer, jr., figures were received showing a census of 2,683,000 neat cattle in the State of Bahia and 269,000 neat cattle in the State of Sergipe. The consul reports that the majority of the cattle in his district is of native stock, although a considerable amount of crossbreeding has been done with zebu stock from India and, to a small extent, with some Dutch cattle (probably a variety of Holstein) called here "tourino." Excepting for the introduction of the zebu and tourino strains, few experiments in bringing in foreign breeds have been made. The consul further states:

Relative Value of Breeds in Dispute.

There is much difference of opinion concerning the value of the zebu blood, but most raisers concur in testifying that cattle having it grow more rapidly than the indigenous stock, that they resist disease and the effects of drought much better, and can be driven longer distances with less loss in weight. On the other hand, they are considerably smaller milk and meat producers, and some raisers hold that the stock tends to degenerate here in two or three generations and must be renewed by constantly importing pure-blooded bulls from elsewhere in Brazil or from India.

There is no cattle industry, properly so-called, here, for though practically all farmers maintain a certain number of animals, it is said that there are probably not 15 or 20 individuals owning a thousand head or more in the whole State.

The grazing country is practically all open range, on which cattle are branded and turned out as in the United States. Many farmers plant a small amount of pasture with a variety of guinea grass and fence the land so planted. Alfalfa is not grown here, as in the Plate, and animals receive no food whatever except what they find by grazing.

Advantages of the Bahia District.

There is every reason why the Bahia consular district should be a great cattle country, were it not for the recurrence of devastating droughts. There is plenty of land here, so cheap in many places as to have practically no value placed upon it; a very healthful climate, and comparatively little cattle disease.

Another difficulty, but only a temporary one which will diminish with the progress of railway building, is the lack of means of transporting cattle from the interior to the coast. The principal slaughterer of beef at the port of Bahia, who kills about 4,500 out of the 6,000 head used here monthly, owns a succession of small ranches between this and the grazing lands of the interior, by means of which he brings his animals here in stages, allowing them to recuperate at each place before driving them on to the next.

The State of Piauhy produces better and larger cattle than any other in the north, and it is much less subject to severe droughts. It is very sparsely populated, however, and the interior country distant from the São Francisco and Parnahyba Rivers entirely lacks means of transportation. No statistics are available as to the number of cattle the State contains.

It is believed that there are no meat-packing plants north of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, with the exception of one at Pará owned by the Companhia do Porto do Pará. No attempt to establish one has ever been made in the Bahia consular district.

Report by Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce.

A recent report made by the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, Dr. José Rufino Bezerra Cavalcanti, takes

up the subject of the cattle industry. He states that Brazilian breeders in general have been convinced of the value of selection in cattle raising and are well aware of the necessity of improving their stock through the medium of good stud animals. He finds that the only problems to be discussed to-day in the matter are the best ways and means of convincing the rural population as to the urgent necessity of preparing their pasture and of selecting wisely the type under which they shall breed, and, finally, as to the system which the Government should adopt in order to accelerate as much as possible the general interest in cattle raising.

Dr. Cavalcanti recommends that the department of which he is at the head should itself import the greatest possible number of stud animals and sell them at low prices, even though at some loss, to such States and municipalities as desire them for their ranches and breeding stations. With the idea of stocking the farms and breeding stations of the Federal Government, the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce has already purchased both native and foreign stud animals to the amount of \$100,000 (United States currency) within the past six months, and those purchases would have been much more extensive were it not for the high ocean freights.

Proposes Breeding Farms in Each State.

Brazil would have everything to gain, Minister Cavalcanti thinks, from the installation of modest breeding farms in each State.

The cattle-industry conference is to be held on May 13, 1917, under the direction of the National Society of Agriculture. By that time the Ministry of Agriculture hopes to present the figures which are now being gathered to show a complete census of the cattle of the country. A brilliant future is in store for the Brazilian cattle industry—an industry that must inevitably bulk largely in the Republic's future exports, besides curtailing the imports of foodstuffs from abroad. That the movement is promising is indicated by the record of meat exports in the past two years, amounting to \$1,503,655 (United States currency) in 1915 and to \$2,324,652 in 1916.

[A report entitled "Brazilian cattle raising and beef exports" was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 10, 1916.]

SOUTH AFRICAN STEEL WORKS TO BE ENLARGED.

The Board of Trade Journal published in its September 28 issue the following details regarding the enlargement of the steel works at Vereeniging, Transvaal, South Africa:

The small steel furnace which has done service in the past is being replaced by a larger one, into the construction of which has entered locally made magnesite and silica bricks, products which, it is stated, are destined to displace the imported articles. The furnace, of the latest open-hearth type, is supplied with a chrome-ore hearth from Rhodesian material. All castings for the furnaces are made on the spot, only the valves and chains being imported. Nothing but local bituminous coal is used to supply the gas required to melt the charges of steel. The latest type of Dibley valve is employed, and it is anticipated that the new furnace will turn out 1,000 tons of steel a month, while the original small plant could produce only half that amount.

At present the Vereeniging foundry is working on "scrap," but it is claimed that within a few miles of the foundry lie deposits of high-class iron ore.

JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunesaulus, Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 23.]

An interesting pamphlet, recently published by the Johannesburg municipality, is that containing the annual reports of the town engineer for the two years ended June 30, 1914 and 1915. From these reports it is found that within the Johannesburg municipal area there are 111 townships, which comprise 74,792 stands or plots, and embrace 684.72 miles of streets and roads. The area controlled by the municipal council is 81.75 square miles, the mean radius of the municipal boundary being about 5.1 miles from the general post office.

During 1914, 10.8 miles of roadways were constructed, 29 miles were reinstalled, 87,048 square yards were formed, and 1,045,496 square yards were tarred. For the year 1915, 32.37 miles of roadways were reinstalled, 960,979 square yards were tarred, and 27,672 square yards of tar-macadam work were completed. The council maintains a stone-breaking plant on one of the near-by mines, which provides most of the crushed stone used in ordinary road construction.

Two hundred and ninety buildings, used for public assemblies, churches, and places of entertainment, are contained within the municipality, and each of these is inspected yearly to see that it complies with municipal regulations. There are in the municipal area 6 theaters, 25 bioscopes, and 143 churches, the remainder being of a miscellaneous character.

Building Operations—Sewerage Work.

Building operations for the year 1915 were greatly restricted, owing to the outbreak of the war. For the first few months the decrease amounted to 75 per cent, but later there was a gradual recovery, and at the close of the year the usual amount of work had practically been reached. Dwellings were erected in large numbers and numerous public improvements were also made. Many new districts in outlying parts of the city have been the scene of active building operations. The tendency is for better and more comfortable buildings. The report states that there is every indication that the succeeding year will show considerable improvement on the year under review, and this view has been confirmed.

The number of buildings erected in 1915 was 3,799, as compared with 5,665 in the previous year. Among the new public buildings completed during the year was the handsome new art gallery, now occupied, which was erected in Joubert Park at a cost of about \$237,000. Other municipal buildings completed include new native compounds and stables for the sanitary department and several electric substations. Among municipal enterprises immediately contemplated may be mentioned a refrigerating and ice-making plant and a by-products plant in connection with the municipal abattoirs.

Work has been vigorously pushed on the new sewerage system for the city, which is being constructed at a total cost of over \$3,000,000, and which is designed to serve a population of 312,000, a sewage disposal plant being part of the improvement. The total length of sewers and storm-water drains in use at the end of the year (June 30, 1915) was 90 and 51½ miles, respectively.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	Oct. 30	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Nov. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.		31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E. b.....	Georgetown, Guiana.....		
Spahr, Herman L. c.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.....		C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.

* Mr. Gracey will be glad to have conferences with American exporters in eastern cities interested in the Spanish trade during his visit in the United States.

* Mr. Chamberlin expects to arrive in New York between October 8 and 14, and he will be glad to arrange for appointments with business houses in New York and Boston desiring information concerning trade conditions in his district. His address until the day of his arrival will be in care of the Hotel Martinique, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, New York, and thereafter in care of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

* Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

Mineral Deposits in Eastern Nevada.

Twenty-nine mining districts in eastern Nevada are described in a report recently issued by the United States Geological Survey as Bulletin 648, "Notes on Some Mining Districts in Eastern Nevada." They are widely scattered through an area extending from the northern part of the State to the extreme southern part, in south-eastern Clark County. Not much has heretofore been known about the geologic features of the ore deposits in these districts, because they are relatively inaccessible or undeveloped. Silver, lead, copper, and gold are the principal metals found, but tungsten and bismuth also are known to occur. Valuable ore bodies have been found as recently as 1911.

Trade Extension by Peruvian Branch of American Bank.

Manufacturers in the United States have been invited by the Mercantile Bank of the Americas, Inc., to send catalogues and other printed matter to its branch at Lima, Peru, to be used for trade-extension purposes in that country. Such material will be carefully arranged and made easy of access to the business men there. The branch mentioned has \$1,000,000 separate capital. It should be addressed as Banco Mercantil Americano del Perú at Lima.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Hospital supplies, No. 3676.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until October 27, 1916, for furnishing one compressed air apparatus, chloride of silver electric apparatus, metal applicators for throat, cook aprons, hand atomizers, bandages, basins for sponges, bed cradles, bedpans, bedstands, call bells, coffee boilers, bottles, bowls, brooms, dental cases, chairs, clocks, eye shades, etc. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3677.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 14, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Media, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Media, Pa., or at the above-named office.

Iron pipe, No. 3678.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for the purchase of 500 lengths of cast-iron water pipe, 16 inches inside diameter. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named officer.

Guns, No. 3679.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until October 25, 1916, for furnishing and delivering, f. o. b. contractor's works, two 16-inch guns, Model E, with and without breech mechanisms, no spare parts or accessories included. Drawings and specifications will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

Gasoline, No. 3680.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 23, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon, Cristobal (Atlantic ports), or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, gasoline during the fiscal year 1917. (Refer to circular No. 1087.)

Cottage construction, No. 3681.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1916, for furnishing material and labor for the construction of a frame cottage at Springfield, S. Dak. Plans, specifications, and instructions may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3682.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 22, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Franklin, Va. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the custodian of site at Franklin, Va., or to the above-named office.

Two colliers, No. 3683.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 1, 1916, for furnishing, free of all charges, at a port in the United States, or at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, two colliers of 12,000 tons cargo capacity. (Circular No. 1088.)

Roof construction, No. 3684.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1916, for a new roof, with monitor and skylights, on building No. 58, navy yard, Puget Sound, Wash. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Washington, D. C., or to the commandant of the navy yard, Puget Sound, Wash.

Metal vault shelving, No. 3685.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 6, 1916, for furnishing and delivering metal vault shelving for buildings under the control of the Treasury Department, in accordance with drawings and specifications, copies of which may be had on application to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Machinery, No. 22675.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in Porto Rico who desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of machinery for paper mills. He contemplates establishing a factory for manufacturing paper and jute bags.

Machinery, No. 22676.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a firm in his district wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of machinery for the production of citric acid, citrates, and tartaric acid.

General representation, No. 22677.—A commission agent in Holland informs the Bureau that he desires to represent American manufacturers for the sale of textiles, rubber goods, canned goods, cotton, cotton seed, cotton yarns, and raw materials. Reference.

Machinery, No. 22678.—An American consular officer in Brazil informs the Bureau that a cotton milling company in his district will shortly install a plant for making gas from wood for which machinery will be required. The gas is to be used as fuel throughout the cotton mill.

Indigo, No. 22679.—A firm of commission agents in India writes the Bureau requesting that it be placed in communication with American firms interested in the importation of indigo.

Pipes, No. 22680.—A man in Canada writes the Bureau of his desire to represent in that country American manufacturers and exporters of pipes. He desires to represent manufacturers who at present have no agencies in Canada.

Disinfectants, etc., No. 22681.—A firm in Colombia is in the market for absorbent cotton, disinfectants, and articles made of rubber.

Paper, No. 22682.—A business man in Cuba informs a special agent of the Bureau that he would like to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of writing, printing, and wrapping paper, with a view to representing them in that country. References.

Coffee machinery, No. 22683.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in British Guiana who desires illustrated catalogues of machinery suitable for treating coffee, such as pulpers and hullers, and kerosene motors of 4 to 5 horsepower. Full particulars as to terms, etc., are desired.

Carnauba wax, No. 22684.—An American consular officer in Italy writes that a firm in his district desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of carnauba wax. Samples are desired, and prices should be quoted either f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. Italian port. Correspondence in English.

Electrical supplies, No. 22685.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in Norway desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of all kinds of electric lamps and electrical appliances. Reference.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

OCT 30

PRINCETON



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No. 242

Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 14

1916

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IMPORTATION OF PAPER INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 12.]

Regulation issued whereby imports of paper for four months, November-February, inclusive, will be reduced by one-half instead of by one-third as heretofore. For purposes of this regulation paper includes paper, cardboard, strawboard, pasteboard, mill pulp board, manufactures of paper and cardboard, such as printed forms, writing paper, calendars, show cards, posters, labels, color and lithographic printing (other than in book form), catalogues and price lists printed for persons in the United Kingdom, and periodical publications exceeding 16 pages imported otherwise than in single copies by post.

Importation of Mixed Silk Hosiery.

Special decision on prohibition to import cotton hosiery provides that hosiery of mixed silk and cotton would be considered prohibited if cotton was at least 50 per cent of weight of fabric. As to hosiery of cotton and artificial silk, decision would depend on raw material from which artificial silk was made. Artificial silk made from wood or ramie would not be prohibited if content of cotton was less than 50 per cent.

[The British restrictions on imports of paper were fully described in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 22, 1916, and a notice regarding manufactures of mixed silk and cotton appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 12, 1916.]

CUBA'S 1915-16 SUGAR HARVEST COMPLETED.

In the October 11th issue of Willett & Gray's Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal appears the following item relative to Cuba's 1915-16 sugar harvest:

The last central working, the "Santa Lucia," has finished grinding and the harvesting of the 1915-16 Cuba crop is now over. The dates of finishing the last five Cuban campaigns were: 1911-12, October 23, 1912; 1912-13, October 22, 1913; 1913-14, September 18, 1914; 1914-15, November 8, 1915; 1915-16, October 9, 1916. According to a special cable received from Messrs. Guma-Mejer, the final outturn of the 1915-16 Cuba crop was 3,007,915 tons, against 2,592,637 tons for the preceding crop.

GENERAL TIDE TABLES FOR 1917 PUBLISHED.

General tide tables for 1917 have been published as Serial No. 49 by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. The volume contains 488 pages, with 13 diagrams, and as in other years since 1896 the entire maritime world is covered, with full predictions for all tides at selected ports and tidal differences for 3,000 stations. Since 1912 the predictions have been made chiefly by means of the Coast and Geodetic Survey tide-predicting machine No. 2.

Several changes have been introduced this year with the purpose of rendering the tables simpler and more easily understood and hence more serviceable to mariners. The tables have been made of octavo size, a reduction of approximately one inch in width and height. The time used is now given as a. m. and p. m., with the latter printed in heavy-faced type. For the preceding 21 years the time in these tables was reckoned from midnight to midnight without any break at noon.

Full tide predictions are given for seven additional ports—Eastport, Me.; Albany, N. Y.; Delaware Breakwater, Del. (using differences from Sandy Hook); Humboldt Bay, Cal.; and Juneau, Seldovia, and Apokak, Alaska—making a total of 78 ports for which the high and low waters are predicted. A new and more convenient table for obtaining the height of the tide at any time has been introduced.

Tables of Moonrise and Moonset.

Tables of moonrise and moonset have been included for the first time for the seven following stations: Boston, Mass., New York, N. Y., Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D. C. (reckoned as one station), Charleston, S. C., and Savannah, Ga. (reckoned as one station), Galveston, Tex., San Francisco, Cal., and Seattle, Wash. A table of the moon's phases, perigee, apogee, greatest north and south and zero declination, has been arranged in the order of their occurrence.

The tidal data for 1917 appear in three forms—General Tide Tables, price 50 cents; Atlantic Coast Tide Tables, price 10 cents; Pacific Coast Tide Tables, price 10 cents. A list of agencies of the Coast and Geodetic Survey may be found in the first number for each month of the Notice to Mariners, which is published weekly by the Bureau of Lighthouses and Coast and Geodetic Survey.

BREEDING OF FRESH-WATER MUSSELS SUCCESSFUL.

The first successful attempt to secure the breeding of mussels under control has been reported from the Fairport, Iowa, station of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. This has been accomplished after many trials had been made by various methods. During August, 1916, eggs were produced and larval mussels or glochidia obtained from Lake Pepin mucklets (*Lampsilis luteola*) held in a floating crate. Glochidia were taken from the gravid mussels and an implantation upon fish was obtained. These passed through the metamorphosis in less than 20 days and developed into juvenile mussels. As the parent mussels were reared from artificially infected fish, these juvenile mussels represent the second generation reared in captivity.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT FURS.

At a recent public auction of furs in St. Louis, 1,900 dressed and dyed sealskins were sold on Government account. These were the first products of the newly established plant at St. Louis. There were also 420 blue fox skins and 20 white fox skins from the Pribilof Islands. These furs were part of a very large quantity of miscellaneous skins from all parts of the world offered by Funsten Bros. & Co., and the sale attracted buyers from all parts of the United States and from five foreign countries.

The trade classifications of the sealskins, following the London standard, were: Middlings, 2; middlings and smalls, 27; smalls, 151; large pups, 640; middling pups, 900; small pups, 180. The skins were from male seals, mostly 3 years old, and none less than 2 years old.

The prices received ranged from \$35 to \$51 per skin and the gross proceeds were \$74,530. These figures, considering the small number of skins offered for sale and the light demand owing to the practical absence of sealskins from the markets in recent years, are regarded as satisfactory.

In the sale of fox skins, no such record prices were obtained as in 1915. The best lots of blue foxes brought \$113, \$125, \$128, and \$135 per skin, the average being \$48.20. The white foxes sold for \$14.25 per skin. The Government's gross receipts from fox skins aggregated \$20,527.

Enumeration of Alaskan Seal Herd.

Following the actual enumeration of certain elements of the seal herd resorting to the Pribilof Islands in 1916, the United States Bureau of Fisheries has made a tentative estimate of the other components of the herd, based on partial counts and on an assumed natural mortality, employing the same factors as were used last year. The computation is as follows: Breeding females, 116,977; pups, 116,977; harem bulls, 3,500; idle bulls, 2,632; yearlings, both sexes, 67,291; two-year-olds, both sexes, 48,460; bachelors and young bulls, 61,492; total, 417,329. The last three figures are subject to revision after a more careful study of the data on branded seals and other records. The total figures for 1915 were 363,872.

STUDY OF DEXTROSE AT BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

The United States Bureau of Standards has just published a report, "Scientific Paper No. 293," which treats of the saccharimetric normal weight and the specific rotation of dextrose.

The essential constituent of glucose is a sugar which is called dextrose or dextro-glucose. This when pure is a white crystalline substance which may be analyzed in much the same manner as cane sugar on the polar scope if it is once known how much dextrose is required to give a reading of "100" on the scale of the instrument. The bureau finds that 32.231 grams of pure dextrose will read "100 per cent" on the polarimeter. The percentage of dextrose present in any sample can then be read directly. The paper gives data for correcting the readings so as to give the most accurate results.

For many purposes it is useful to know the rotary effect of dextrose upon polarized light of a single pure color. This was investigated and was stated for green light emitted by the mercury arc.

COMMERCIAL ITEMS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 1.]

Manufacture of Agricultural Implements.

There are 19 works manufacturing agricultural implements in New Zealand, giving employment to 646 hands, with an annual output valued at \$921,983. The agricultural machinery manufactured in this county consists largely of smaller machinery, plows, harrows, etc. Such machinery as traction engines, threshing machines, mowers, and reapers are imported. Agricultural machinery enters free of duty from all countries save the war tax of 1 per cent. The imports of spades, shovels, and forks in 1914 amounted to \$67,153, of which the United Kingdom supplied \$57,196 and the United States \$8,473; chaff cutters, turnip and other cutters, oat bruisers, pulpers, and turnip slicers and strippers, \$4,930, of which the United Kingdom supplied \$4,448 and the United States \$88; harrows, \$72,170, of which the United Kingdom supplied \$15,821 and the United States \$29,238; plows, \$47,784, of which the United Kingdom supplied \$6,428 and the United States \$26,493.

Manufacture of Carts, Wagons, and Carriages.

In New Zealand there are 180 shops and factories where wagons and carriages are manufactured, giving employment to 1,436 hands, with an annual output of about \$1,927,190. During 1914 there were 124 carriages imported into New Zealand, of which the United States supplied 44 and the United Kingdom 69, the total value of the carriages imported being \$7,436. During the same period there were 103 carts, drays, and wagons imported, of which the United States supplied 79 and the United Kingdom 2, at the total value of \$11,695. The duty on carriages, carts, drays, and wagons is 20 per cent from the United Kingdom and possessions, and 10 per cent additional from all other countries, with a special war tax of 1 per cent from all countries.

Increased Production of Hemp—Output of Saddlery.

There has been quite an increased production of New Zealand hemp (*phormium tenax*) during the past year. This has been the result of the better prices ruling. The exports from New Zealand for the first five months of 1916 amounted to 11,000 bales against 9,227 bales for a similar period in 1915. During the 12 months ended May 31, 1916, the shipments of hemp were valued at \$3,628,628. A bale of hemp weighs 448 pounds.

There are 117 harness and saddle factories or shops in New Zealand giving employment to 541 persons who receive wages to the value of \$288,257. The output of these factories was valued at \$1,072,392 during 1914, which really supplied the trade, as no imports of completed saddlery or harness were reported for that year. The imports of harness and saddlery accessories, such as collar checks, saddle trees, saddlers' hardware and materials, amounted to \$153,295.

The Flouring Milling Industry—Rabbit Pest.

There are in New Zealand 66 flour mills employing 424 men to whom wages are paid to the value of about \$243,325. The approximate value of the buildings, machinery, etc., is \$2,324,824, and the annual output about \$8,083,125 per annum. The mills are equipped with up-to-date machinery and excellent flour is turned out. In 1914

flour to the value of \$477,559 was imported, of which Australia supplied practically all.

The rabbit nuisance has increased quite materially during the last few months in New Zealand and has become a troublesome pest, especially in the South Island. It is thought that this increase is partly due to the dry season of 1914-15. It is proposed to attempt to reduce this pest by the use of pollard poisoned with phosphorus distributed where the rabbits have their runs.

Prices for Sheepshearing—Price of Dairy Cattle.

The New Zealand Sheepowners' Federation has granted a war bonus of 60 cents per 100 sheep to sheepshearers, the regular rate being \$4.87 per 100 head.

The price of good dairy cattle in New Zealand has increased materially during the past year as indicated by the following prices realized at a sale of dairy stock about the 1st of August. The average price for the herd was \$68.10, while some of the better stock realized \$82.75 to \$97.35. Thirteen heifers averaged \$43.80 with a top price at \$74.20. This was only an average herd, and in some cases dairy cows have sold as high as \$158 per head.

Bee and Honey Industry—Scheelite Production.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, there were 1,753 apiaries inspected in New Zealand, with 24,624 colonies, and other general work carried out by the New Zealand Government to assist in the development of this industry. There were 256,480 pounds of honey graded by Government inspectors in the country. Official figures show that there were 267,680 pounds of honey exported during the fiscal year.

New Zealand has produced 218 tons of scheelite since September 20, 1915, valued at \$191,370, and it is claimed that there are large quantities of scheelite ores in New Zealand and in paying quantities.

RECORD CROP OF CANARY ISLAND ONION SEED.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Aug. 31.]

The single outstanding export of the Canary Islands to the United States, onion seed, closed down its shipping season for the year 1916 on August 28, showing a record exportation for cebollino reaching to \$84,314, as compared with only \$41,801 for 1915 and \$45,841 in 1914. While a slight increase in the value of the crop was indicated in the forecast sent out by this office (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 20, 1916), the gain of over 100 per cent was a surprise even to dealers here, who found it impossible to supply the entire demand from the United States for the ordinary, canary-yellow onion seed. On the other hand, the usually scarcer and more expensive wax seed gave an extra heavy crop.

The showing made by American purchases of onion seed has had a most stimulating effect on the industry in these islands, and heavy planting may be expected for the 1917 crop, judging from the plans now talked of by the more important growers here. With even average growing conditions this circumstance may succeed in reducing prices for next year below the high level obtained for the 1916 output.

The value of the onions shipped to Porto Rico was \$1,189 less than in the preceding year, being \$12,245, as against \$13,435 for 1915 and only \$7,963 in 1914.

WORK TO BEGIN ON TRANSVAAL IRRIGATION SCHEME.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Transvaal, South Africa, Aug. 29.]

In a previous report from the Johannesburg consulate [see Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Oct. 14, 1914] mention was made of the Union Government's intention to undertake the Hartebeestpoort irrigation scheme in the Transvaal, one of the most ambitious of the irrigation projects yet proposed by this Government. Owing to war and other difficulties this scheme was postponed, but a decision has now been reached by the Government to proceed forthwith with the improvement, the preliminary work of which will be commenced almost at once.

As before stated, this project is one of considerable magnitude. The site of the proposed dam is in the Magaliesberg Range, about 20 miles west of Pretoria, the object being to construct a high dam for the conservation of the waters of the Crocodile and Magalies Rivers for the irrigation of land below and for other purposes. According to the original plans, the dam is designed to store a gross quantity of water of 5,099.38 million cubic feet, of which 4,675.42 million cubic feet will be the gross available contents above outlet-sill level.

Dimensions and Cost.

The dam will be constructed of concrete with an outer skin of masonry. It will be curved in plan, but no allowance is made in the design for lessening the thickness of the wall due to this curving; the section of the wall will be a "gravity" section—i. e., as if the plan of the dam were straight. Its maximum height above river bed will be 159 feet, and above lowest foundation level approximately 199 feet. The waste weir will be situated on the left flank of the dam, and it will be 250 feet long on crest, with a maximum depth of water on it, when discharging high flood of 20 feet. The top of the dam will be 5 feet above the highest flood level. The whole scheme is estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$3,528,000, of which about \$600,000 is for the purchase of land. It is thought the dam will take about four years to build.

According to information furnished by the Director of Irrigation the first work to be undertaken will be a road to the dam site, temporary offices and buildings, etc., and then excavation. Tenders will be invited probably within the next two or three months for such machinery as will be required for the construction of the dam, full particulars concerning which will be furnished as soon as available.

NEW COAL-CARRYING VESSELS FOR SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 11.]

Not long since the Sociedad de Altos Hornos de Vizcaya, of Bilbao, Spain, acquired three steamers at a cost of over \$1,000,000. Two additional steamers, costing together \$900,000, have now been added to its fleet. All these ships will be used by the company to transport foreign coal for its own works exclusively. At the same time this company has ordered two steamers at a cost of \$360,000 each, which are being built by the Sociedad Española de Construcción Naval, the chief offices of which are at Calle Alcalá 13, Madrid, Spain.

CUBA'S TRADE IN PLAYING CARDS.

[Special Agent Robert S. Barrett.]

Cuba's imports of playing cards in the fiscal twelvemonth ended June 30, 1916, reached a higher figure than in any of the three preceding years, being 3,734 gross, as against 2,849 gross in 1914-15, 2,889 gross in 1913-14, and 3,352 gross in 1912-13. Of these cards approximately 1,000 gross came each year from the United States.

Spain is the largest exporter of cards to Cuba, its exports amounting to 2,500 to 3,000 gross per annum. All cards exported from Spain have the Spanish faces and they are in general use all over the island, the American faces being used in clubs where poker is the principal game. There are three grades of Spanish playing cards imported into Cuba, known as Sol, Loba, and Heraldo. Formerly there was a large sale of the first of these, but since the imposition of an internal-revenue tax of 5 cents on each pack importations have fallen off. They are of the very poorest quality, crudely lithographed on a cheap strawboard. At the present time the imports are about evenly divided between the Loba and the Heraldo, but the latter board is growing in popularity. The prices per gross paid by the Habana exporters for these cards at the factory in Spain are: Sol, \$1.60; Loba, \$5.50; Heraldo, \$11.56.

The Spanish cards are sold by traveling representatives of the Spanish factories who visit Cuba every two years. American cards are sold by representatives who visit Habana annually. Merchants in the interior are supplied by the Habana jobbers.

[A list of importers of playing cards in Habana may be obtained by addressing the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices and referring to file No. 10-11.]

INDIAN MANGO PLANTS FOR UNITED STATES.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Sept. 7.]

A shipment of 45 selected grafts of mango plants in 8 varieties has recently been made from Madras to a horticulturist in the United States, who, it is stated, will transplant the trees in Florida. The experiment is regarded with interest, as mangoes produced in India are considered particularly fine, the ripe fruit of the best varieties being of delicate consistency and agreeable taste. The specimens recently shipped were selected with great care with the assistance of a botanical expert, and special precautions were taken as regards packing, so that the plants might arrive in America in the best condition. It is believed that the horticulturist importing these plants intends to graft them on Florida stock or else to develop a special plantation of East Indian mango trees in the United States in a suitable locality. Mangoes can be grown from seed, but it is the general belief that seedlings rarely produce fruit equal to the parents, and the usual method of propagation is by inarching. The stones are usually sown at the time the fruit is in season and the plants raised from them are potted to be grafted by inarching with desirable plants. This is accomplished in India during the setting in of the rains in the second year of the growth of the seedling. At the close of the rains the union is usually complete. The two principal localities in India where the finest fruits are said to be produced are Mazagon, at Bombay, and Malda, in Bengal.

TRADE EXTENSION IN THE ROSARIO DISTRICT.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Argentina, Aug. 11.]

No figures are available showing imports into the Rosario consular district alone. As respects Rosario, the returns showing imports by countries are only partial. These statistics were given in supplement to COMMERCE REPORTS No. 38a, July 13, 1916. The very incomplete figures in question offer no satisfactory basis for a discussion of American trade extension at Rosario and much less in this consular district. It must also be borne in mind that considerable quantities of merchandise ultimately consumed in this city and elsewhere in northern Argentina are entered at Buenos Aires and credited to that port.

Important Distributing Center.

High freight rates and the scarcity of tonnage have tended to diminish the relative importance of Rosario's share of the Argentine import trade. While the situation created by the war is distinctly unfavorable to this port, its importance as a grain center, the commercial enterprise and capacity of its population, and the proximity to considerable consuming markets should, after a return to normal conditions, insure its progress as a leading distributing center for northern Argentina. It is gratifying to note that since the war several American concerns or concerns handling chiefly or exclusively American products have recognized the importance of this market by establishing branches at Rosario.

American Goods in Evidence—Many New Lines Handled.

While it is impossible to illustrate in figures the extent to which American trade has expanded in this district since the war, and particularly during 1915, that there has been a notable increase is apparent in many ways. Advertisements, trade-marks, shop windows, catalogues, conversations with importers, merchants, and consumers, all these reveal interest in American products and their invasion of branches of trade which were formerly, practically speaking, the exclusive domain of foreign competitors. The increase is more remarkable as respects variety than quantity, this due to the more limited local consumption as a result of business depression coupled with high prices of imported merchandise.

Argentina's demand for foreign products covers to a greater or less degree almost all kinds of manufactured goods, and it would prove impossible to enumerate the articles of American origin which, as a result of the war, have found a new or an increased market in this district.

Shipping Difficulties—Credits.

It is generally recognized that the lack of available shipping facilities and the high freight rates have deprived American trade of many advantages which the European war seemed to insure it, but manufacturers and exporters in the United States have not availed themselves of the greater trade opportunities. The following remarks are a result of a careful study based on press comments, articles in trade reviews, and numerous conversations with local importers, some solicited by the writer and others casual in the course of consular work:

There seems to be a widespread impression among both writers on economic subjects and individual merchants that the so-called "American commercial invasion" of this market has not been an unqualified success. This is attributed largely to the following causes: Unwillingness to meet local requirements and customs as respects credits and character of goods; failure to get into personal touch with the market; and a tendency in some quarters to disregard contracts.

Before the war European exporters gave credit in some cases to Rosario merchants exceeding a year, and the generally recognized terms of 90 days after the arrival of the goods were considered a moderate concession. Many shrewd importers realize that abnormally long credits are not sound. Many of the strongest firms are glad to pay cash against documents at Rosario, provided they obtain a discount. A great many others will, if necessary, do business on this basis in order to secure merchandise, although it means that they have to order smaller quantities. Only in exceptional cases, however, are importers prepared to remit with order, and demands for cash in advance creates an unfavorable impression. Certain failures to fulfill contracts during recent months have made "cash in advance" particularly unsatisfactory.

If the American exporter demands cash in advance or against documents in the United States from a lack of confidence in his Argentine customer, he should remember that the Argentine customer may possibly consider himself just as much entitled to mistrust the American exporter. If, on the other hand, the exporter requires cash with order from lack of sufficient capital to finance his export trade, he should bear in mind that interest rates are normally considerably higher here than in New York and endeavor to avail himself of the banking facilities now offered our exporters. "Cash in advance" must be definitely abandoned. This is, however, not enough. Some credit—a margin sufficient to enable the local importer to dispose of a portion of his goods—must be granted, if we desire to achieve permanent importance as a source of supply for merchandise sold in competition with other countries.

Conforming to Local Requirements—Personal Contact.

The unwillingness of many American manufacturers to modify styles is a long-standing grievance of South American importers. It rests to a certain extent on fundamental differences inherent in American and European economic organization which are often not thoroughly understood by Latin American buyers. Frequently, however, it is quite possible for the American manufacturer to meet local requirements and this office knows of recent cases in which relatively small special orders have been filled for Rosario importers. This has in the instances referred to been the result of the personal contact of the seller with the buyer. The writer is strongly of the belief that an important step toward the solution of this problem as well as that of the credit question is taken when the American exporter reaches the conclusion that international trade relations are established primarily by personal contact and not by catalogues. Only the exporter or exporter's representative who visits a foreign market can obtain a correct idea of what the market needs and in how far his own products can fill its wants. Furthermore, after meeting his cus-

tomer personally and investigating his standing he realizes the propriety of granting him credit.

Our leading competitors visit Rosario regularly, and those American firms that still continue to rely exclusively on catalogues and correspondence are at a great disadvantage.

Of course, in certain lines the probable market fails to justify the expense of sending a representative to South America. In many cases, however, it ought to be possible for two or more exporters in noncompetitive lines to share the expense of the trip. Many American firms are spending in the course of two or three years for printing, advertisements, and postage sums which if devoted to one trip would result in far more business than is at present secured.

Agents—Importers and Commission Merchants.

The exporter who finds a market for his products may either continue to work the field through traveling representatives or he may place an agency or open a branch. The many advantages of factory branches have been forcibly demonstrated during the past two years, particularly in the case of motor cars. Of course, branches are not advisable in many cases.

As respects agents, great care must be taken in their selection especially with a view to their ability to push the article in question. A large number of American agencies are held by important and reliable importers, who carry, however, so many lines that it is practically impossible for them to devote more than casual attention to any but the best selling goods.

There are at Rosario a great many capable and conscientious commission merchants who handle and push actively relatively few lines. Among these agents there is to-day a keen interest in American products. This office has transmitted numerous trade opportunity notes in their behalf, few of which have, however, resulted in business. This has generally been due to the fact that exporters in replying to inquiries fail to recognize that the inquirer desires to work on a commission basis and is not himself an importer.

Turkish Government to Furnish Grain to Farmers.

The American embassy at Constantinople reports that the Ottoman Official Journal for August 25–September 7, 1916, contains a provisional law authorizing a special appropriation of £450,000 (\$1,980,000) in the budget of the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture for the current fiscal year, which is to be used for the purchase of seed grains for poor farmers.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

NEW ZEALAND'S TRADE WITH JAPAN.

[New Zealand Trade Review and Price Current.]

The question of trade with Japan has been somewhat prominent recently and representatives from that country have visited here with a view to promoting trade. Our imports for the last three years were: £348,671 in 1915, £232,364 in 1914, and £151,106 in 1913 (£1 = \$4.87). The exports for the same years were: £137,464 in 1915, £59,508 in 1914, and £2,901 in 1913. Our exports are practically confined to wool, which accounts for £137,064 in 1915, £59,222 in 1914, and £2,645 in 1913. The principal imports from Japan for the past three years were:

Articles.	1913	1914	1915	Articles.	1913	1914	1915
Superphosphates ..	£21,742	£24,526	£51,956	Apparel	£12,003	£13,562	£16,254
Rice	1,507	37,200	32,178	Drapery	9,143	11,720	10,024
Fancy goods and toys	8,373	12,293	19,465	Silk piece goods	35,417	54,490	91,005
Glass and glassware	555	2,302	15,055	Cotton piece goods	14,683	13,042	16,115
China and earthenware	2,114	2,988	3,894	Hats, caps, and materials	2,171	4,576	5,900
Brush ware	2,865	4,211	5,064	Hosiery, buttons, tapes, etc	1,914	7,805	9,251
Basket ware and furniture	5,308	4,876	3,702	Rugs	1,435	1,591	3,405
Timber	2,656	3,882	13,304	Mats and matting	2,054	2,916	4,035
Drugs and wares	1,000	2,432	2,979	Textiles made up	2,102	1,990	2,080
Sulphur	9,406	2	7,889	Miscellaneous	12,490	23,539	32,011
Grain: Maize, etc.	1,259	2,371	2,242	Total	151,106	232,364	348,671

The 1913 figures are compiled according to country of importation, but the last two years are according to country of origin, which accounts for rice showing such a small total in 1913.

IRRIGATION OF THE ADANA PLAIN.

[Consul General G. Bie Ravndal, Constantinople, Turkey, Sept. 6.]

A project for the irrigation of the Adana Plain (the Cilicia of antiquity), at a cost of £4,000,000 (\$17,600,000), and requiring 8 to 10 years for completion, has been undertaken by the Ottoman Government. This project contemplates the regulation of the three rivers which water the plain—the Saihun, the Shihan, and the Berdan Shah—and will open up to agriculture 200,000 hectares (494,200 acres) of land, much of which is at present arid. It is estimated that the completion of this irrigation project and the introduction of fertilizers and agricultural machinery will increase many fold the Turkish production of cotton, sugar cane, lemons, oranges, and olives. A part of the irrigation works will be put in operation within the next 18 months.

When these irrigation works are completed the Adana Plain will be the most favored portion of the Ottoman Empire, for it already possesses splendid transportation facilities. The plain is traversed by the Bagdad Railway, and, in addition, Adana is connected with Mersina by rail. Further, the port of Alexandretta lies at a distance of only 30 miles from the mouth of the Shihan, which river, as well as the Saihun and the Berdan Shah, will, after the completion of the contemplated regulation projects, be navigable and offer a cheap means of transporting the products of the plain to the sea. The regulation of these rivers will also render available abundant water power for industrial purposes, such as the generation of electricity.

INCREASED EXPORTS FROM CEIBA.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Ceiba, Honduras, Oct. 4.]

The commerce of the port of Ceiba continues to show a substantial increase over that for 1915. The total declared exports from Ceiba for the United States during the first nine months of 1916 amounted to \$56,921 more than for the entire year 1915, the figures being: January to September, inclusive, \$1,235,649; the whole of 1915, \$1,292,570.

The three largest items of export from Ceiba have been bananas, cane sugar, and coconuts. The totals for these articles for the nine months were: 4,523,000 stems of bananas, 3,931,500 pounds of centrifugal cane sugar, and 266,000 coconuts.

There has also been an increase in the amount of rubber shipped, although the price is not yet high enough to be an incentive to the natives to tap the trees.

The immediate vicinity of Ceiba does not produce a large number of coconuts, which are grown in larger numbers on the Bay Islands, situated in this consular district. The entire north coast of Honduras exports some 12,000,000 coconuts annually, and the production is steadily increasing.

Favorable Agricultural Year.

From an agricultural standpoint, the season has been a favorable one. Good demand for both coconuts and bananas in the United States, with seasonal rains resulting in a heavy crop, have helped out the agricultural interests. Grasshoppers reappeared this season in large numbers, but thus far they have caused little damage to the crops, and the Government is trying to mitigate the pest. Contrary to the usual experience, the banana market holds up well and shipments so far show no signs of diminishing. The sugar mill has had a successful season. Its capacity will be considerably increased before the next season opens. More cane has been planted this season, both by the company and by private interests.

ACTIVITY IN SWISS STOCK MARKET.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 23.]

The Swiss stock and bond markets are showing a strong upward tendency at present. The movement has been again attended by an era of speculation in several industrial stocks, notably in chemical and aluminium issues. Aluminium-Aktie has risen from 2,275 to 3,260 since the war, Lonza-Aktie (chemical) from 470 to 1,370, Sandoz-Aktie (chemicals) from 1,850 to 8,000, and Chemische Gesellschaft-Aktie from 1,700 to 4,140. The reason for the upward movement in chemical issues is explained largely by the important rôles expected of these companies in the much-discussed world-wide commercial war upon the conclusion of hostilities in Europe.

Some concern, however, is felt in the Swiss bond market. The refusal upon the part of several Governments to continue to meet their coupon obligations in France because of the high exchange value of Swiss metallic currency has caused no little anxiety among the holders of foreign bonds, both Government and industrial, in Switzerland. Swiss bondholders in some instances have lost as much as 40 per cent because payment is being made in foreign currencies.

[A discussion of the position of the Swiss bourses, as viewed by the London Economist, appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 20, 1916.]

THE SWISS TRADE IN RENNET.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 22.]

An embargo placed, on July 2, 1915, upon the exportation of rennet from Switzerland, at once reduced exports to a minimum. Only small so-called "compensatory" shipments to Germany characterized the trade after that date. To-day it is stated all exports have ceased.

A local concern informs the writer that rennet may be obtained in powder form from the firm of Blauenfeld & Edee, Copenhagen, Denmark.

A syndicate to control the trade was only recently created by the Swiss Cheese Exporters' Association, together with the Swiss Butchers' Association, and by means of which the cheese manufacturers of the country are now assured a supply for their own needs.

Rennet, collected by the syndicate from the butchers, is dried and is disposed of to the cheese manufacturers under such rules and regulations that restrict its use to a minimum and insures an equitable but not always an adequate distribution of the article.

Before the war these goods were obtained from France and from the United States, and bought at \$0.77 to \$0.92 per dozen. To-day's quotations are \$2.30 to \$3.

Imports and Exports of Rennets, Etc.

The following table gives the exports from and the imports into Switzerland, in 1915, of dried stomachs of calves, bowels, and rennet:

Country.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Country.	Imports from.	Exports to.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Germany.....	164,685	1,356,330	Roumania.....	17,857	
Austria.....	109,599	102,074	British India.....	121,474	
France.....	830,290	82,011	China.....	92,814	
Italy.....	156,528	131,615	United States.....	1,028,235	
Netherlands.....	49,383	2,306	Argentina.....	21,194	
Denmark.....	22,370	661	Other countries.....	12,125	
Portugal.....		19,400			
Spain.....	4,188	44,974	Total, 1915.....	2,644,669	1,794,371
Greece.....	13,007		Total, 1914.....	2,288,838	1,101,428

[A list of the principal dealers in rennet in the Berne district can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80996.]

INCREASED CUSTOMS RETURNS AT MONCTON.

Consul E. Verne Richardson reports that the receipts at the Moncton, New Brunswick, customhouse and outports for the month of September show a total of \$11,681 compared with \$9,678 for the same month last year.

In the production of salt, the United States is independent of all other countries. The 38,231,496 barrels of salt produced in 1915 by 14 States, Porto Rico and Hawaii constituted 99 per cent of the salt consumed in the United States, and much more could easily have been supplied had the demand required it, according to the United States Geological Survey.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Leonard, Walter A.....	Colombo, Ceylon.....	Oct. 14	Essex, Iowa.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland.....	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....		1200 Entaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.....	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.....	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana.....		Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.....		C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 406, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark.....	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.

* Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

SATISFACTORY YEAR FOR GERMAN ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix-la-Chapelle, Sept. 18.]

Aix-la-Chapelle has the third largest electric railway system in Germany. Greater Berlin leads with a total of 657 kilometers (408 miles), Hamburg ranks second with 188 kilometers (117 miles), while Aix-la-Chapelle has 180 kilometers (112 miles).

The year 1915 showed favorable financial results for the Aix-la-Chapelle system, a dividend of 7½ per cent being declared, as against 8½ per cent for the three preceding years. The capital invested is 22,639,500 marks (\$5,388,200). One-half of the stock is owned by the city. The valuation of the trackage is 13,851,000 marks (\$3,296,500). In 1915 27,402,600 passengers were carried, 8,952,000 car-kilometers (5,562,500 car-miles) were operated, and 14,402,600 kilowatt-hours of electric current were consumed.

The total receipts were 3,151,705 marks (\$750,100); the total operating expenditures 2,164,833 marks (\$515,230). The township of Aix-la-Chapelle paid the company 150,000 marks (\$35,700) to cover the deficit incurred in operating some of the interurban lines, according to contract. The Government tax levied on the sale of tickets brought 7,540 marks (\$1,795). From the beginning of the war to the end of 1915 the company contributed to charity and other relief work 125,000 marks (\$29,750).

Swiss Commercial Attaché for London.

Consul Walter H. Schulz reports from Berne that the 1917 Swiss budget provides for the appointment and maintenance of a commercial attaché at London.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Motor boats, No. 22686.—A commercial organization in the United States has transmitted to the Bureau the name of a business man in the Netherlands who desires to represent an American manufacturer of motor boats.

Bottles, No. 22687.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm in his district wishes to represent an American manufacturer of opal glass bottles for the chemical and perfumery trade. References.

General representation, No. 22688.—An American consular officer in Argentina informs the Bureau that a business man in his district desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters with a view to securing their representation in Argentina for the following articles: Patent medicines, drugs, food specialties, mineral waters, cotton and knitted textiles, Portland cement, hardware, iron pipes and wire, window glass, lubricating oils, barrel staves, buttons, varnish, automobile accessories, cottonseed oil, and writing, book, news print, and wrapping paper. Representation to be on a commission basis. Correspondence in English. References.

Machinery, No. 22689.—A firm in a foreign insular possession writes an American consular officer that it is desirous of obtaining catalogues, terms, and prices of machines for making cigarettes and paper packages for cigarettes. The firm operates a cigarette factory equipped with American machines and wishes to install additional ones. Correspondence in Portuguese or French preferred.

Machinery, No. 22690.—An American consular officer in Japan writes that a man in his district would like to obtain from American manufacturers and dealers in textile machinery catalogues and data relative to the installation of machinery for a cotton mill.

Machinery, No. 22691.—The Bureau is informed that a man in Ecuador desires to obtain literature and prices of machines for making cement tiles in various colors for roofing, kitchens, bathrooms, etc. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

Machinery, No. 22692.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Brazil requesting that it be placed in communication with American manufacturers of machinery for making imitation leather and articles of imitation leather. References will be furnished by the firm upon request.

Hoes and knives, No. 22693.—A man in East Africa desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of "Kaffir" hoes and sailors' knives.

Refrigerators, washing machines, etc., No. 22694.—A man in Siam writes to the Bureau requesting that he be placed in touch with American manufacturers of refrigerators, washing machines, quilt towels in rolls, and glass bottles. Refrigerator must be driven by electric power, 100 volts continuous, and is to be used for storing drugs. The size of the room in which it is to be placed is 25' x 18' x 12'. Quotations and illustrated catalogues of the refrigerators and washing machines, and supplies of toweling are desired. A drawing of the kind of bottle required may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 156.)

General representation, No. 22695.—The Bureau is informed that a man from India who is now in the United States, desires to represent American manufacturers in that country. No particular line is specified.

General representation, No. 22696.—A firm in the Netherlands informs the Bureau that it desires to act as agent for American manufacturers in that country and its colonies. Lines for which representation is desired are not specified. References furnished upon request.

Leather belting, No. 22697.—An American consular officer in Spain writes the Bureau that a firm of commission merchants in his district is in the market for leather belting. Correspondence in English. References.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3686.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 258, 2-ton battery train truck; schedule 259, buoys, leather fillet, rapping plates for patterns, brass dowel pins, steel cap screws, phosphor bronze, carbon steel, brass three-way stopcocks, and 1-inch brass relief valves; schedule 260, 4-inch galvanized steel fuel oil hose, and 2-inch select white pine; schedule 261, tube sheet brass, rough-turned angle rings, boiler-plate steel, copper pipe, admiralty metal condenser tubes, composition condenser tubes, and brass sheet condenser tubes; schedule 262, metal lockers, and 1-inch vertical thread rolling machines; schedule 263, admiralty metal condenser tubes; schedule 264, common steel plate; schedule 265, canned prunes, and raisins; schedule 266, three-fourths-inch lawn sleeve binding, stay binding, black cotton braid, buckles, beackets and metal rings, 36-inch buckram, 24-inch dress canvas, flax heavy lining canvas, 30-inch cotton checks, 27½-inch cheese cloth, 54-inch Italian cloth, 54-inch 16-ounce light blue cloth, 54-inch 16-ounce scarlet cloth, spools and cones black and white cotton, cotton sail duck, 36-inch lining blue flannel, floss and thread, black silk laces, enlisted men's cap leathers, 42-inch black lustrine, 1½-inch black silk ribbon, basting cotton and holland black satin, 35½-inch black silesia, cotton tape, 27-inch white twills, buttonhole and silk twist, 30-inch by 36-inch black wadding, and sleeve lining and haircloth wigan; schedule 267, kidney beans, and canned spinach; schedule 268, white cotton line, and medium strip brass; schedule 269, rubber ferrules, lampblack in oil, oak-tanned white sole leather, 8-foot trough urinals, and hard sheathing copper; schedule 270, steel bolts and nuts, high-speed countersinks, chipping and sledge hammers, etc., 1½-inch sheathing nails, punches and dies, and high-speed reamers; schedule 271, loofa fiber sponges, 98-99 per cent pure shot-form nickel, and ½-inch pressure reducing valves; schedule 272, bugles; schedule 273, galvanized iron or steel buckets, 1-gallon tin paint cans, brass rolled rim spur grommets, bronze butt hinges, and brass wood screws; schedule 274, leather fillet, rubber suction hose, steam and water pipe fittings, and 1½-inch heavy white cotton tape; schedule 275, boiler water gauge glasses, 4-inch bar rolled naval brass, and bar rolled monel metal; schedule 276, brass bibb cocks, steam and water pipe fittings, and low-pressure steam and water valves; schedule 277, rubber gaskets, 30-inch high 25-inch diameter galvanized-iron cans, 2-inch suction centrifugal pumps, and black and bright sheet steel; schedule 278, iron for chain cables; schedule 279, lubricators for inlet and exhaust valve stems, soft rolled sheet copper, copper pipe, and valves for air-spray system; schedule 280, deep-drawing toggle press; schedule 281, 3½-foot sections oil-burning ranges; schedule 282, 18-ounce dark blue cloth (trousers, jackets, and caps), overcoat cloth, heavy quality blue flannel, and 54-inch navy blue worsted serge; schedule 283, gasoline; schedule 284, gasoline and distillate; schedule 285, salt-water soap; schedule 286, electrical equipments (elevating gear, rammer, shell hoist, etc.); schedule 287, steel propeller shafts; and schedule 288, 26-inch swing upright drill, universal cutter and tool grinder, 14-inch and 24-inch screw-cutting engine lathes, 8-inch bench type precision lathe, universal milling machine, and screw machine.

Scrap brass, No. 3687.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Charleston, S. C., until October 25, 1916, for the purchase of scrap brass, scrap steel, old rubber, etc., from light vessel No. 49. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

PROTECTION, N. J.

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No. 243 Washington, D. C., Monday, October 16 1916

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IMPORTATION OF RUBBER GOODS INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 18.]

Goods specified on list of prohibited imports may be imported into Great Britain under general license if made wholly or mainly of rubber.

BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS TO SCANDINAVIA.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 13.]

No further facilities will be granted until further notice for exportation of following commodities to countries named: Fish oil, canned fish, starches and all forms of talc to Norway; all forms of talc to Sweden, Denmark, and Holland; hemp, graphite, plumbago, and black lead to Holland. Restrictions on importation of gum into Holland are canceled.

REGULATIONS FOR SHIPPING SPANISH ORANGES.

[Consul John R. Putnam, Valencia, Sept. 11.]

On September 5 the Comité Nacional Frutero called a meeting at Valencia of the principal shippers of fruit to consider the proposals made by the committee in England representing British fruit interests and other matters relating to the exportation of oranges during the coming season. Among the resolutions adopted at the meeting for submission to the English committee were: (1) That to put into effect the one-third reduction in the quantity of oranges exported to British ports, the Comité Nacional is to notify the local comité at each port of shipment as to the number of cases which may be shipped each month, leaving to such local comité the question of distribution among individual exporters; (2) that licensed vessels be allowed to carry onions and other goods as well as oranges; (3) that as only small shipments of oranges can be made up to November 15, such exportation be permitted on all steamers to avoid delays; and (4) that all oranges be shipped in the regular-sized cases, and that the use of extra-large cases be prohibited.

NEW ZEALAND'S TRADE FOR TWELVE MONTHS

[William F. Smith, clerk to commercial attaché, Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 4.]

According to Australian press figures, exports from New Zealand for the 12 months ended June 30 last made a 50 per cent gain over the preceding year and reached the record total of \$165,591,340. Toward this sum Wellington contributed \$82,387,475, Auckland \$30,322,125, Lyttelton \$17,969,960, Napier \$14,704,440, and Dunedin \$10,742,915. The principal products exported in the two years ended June 30, 1915 and 1916, were:

Articles.	1914-15	1915-16	Articles.	1914-15	1915-16
Wool and skins	\$72,351,000	\$77,336,800	Tallow	\$1,429,485	\$1,684,620
Meat, frozen	25,296,415	38,111,165	Eggs	2,387,320	1,399,685
Butter and cheese	11,561,910	29,570,725	Fish and	1,437,365	1,933,940
Wheat	1,102,375	10,296,125	Farm, dairy	1,533,675	1,647,125
Hemp	1,353,325	1,307,000			

Wool shipments declined 10 per cent in weight, but rose 22.5 per cent in value. Frozen meat was 25 per cent more in weight and 30 per cent more in value. Butter advanced 20 per cent in value for a slightly smaller output, while cheese rose 50 per cent in value for a 30 per cent larger export.

New Zealand's imports for the year under review also established a record, the value being \$117,718,285, as compared with \$83,157,290 in 1914-15, a gain of 26 per cent. Wellington's share in this trade was \$34,823,085, Auckland's \$22,085,000, Lyttelton's \$17,969,960, and Dunedin's \$13,436,515.

The excess of exports over imports was \$48,172,355, as compared with \$34,560,630 in 1914-15.

LUMBERMEN ORGANIZE EXPORT SALES COMPANY.

As a result of meetings of lumbermen held recently in San Francisco, an export sales company has been organized by western lumber manufacturers representing 80 per cent of the Douglas fir cut in this country, the object of which is to exploit Douglas fir and western hemlock in the world's lumber markets. This is regarded as the most important and far-reaching step the industry has taken to broaden its markets and meet the competition of the thoroughly organized lumber exporters of northern Europe. In conjunction with the investigation of European lumber markets recently undertaken jointly by the lumbermen and the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, it should give American lumber a decided advantage over all competitors in the trade struggle that will follow the war. Immediate attention will be given to standardization of grades, to the conditioning of export lumber, and to an active propaganda in foreign countries. Lack of attention in the past to these very important details accounts in large measure for the failure of American lumber to hold its own against more efficient competitors.

The company was organized as a result of meetings of interested lumbermen held recently at San Francisco, and the following officers are announced: President, W. H. Talbot; general manager, A. A. Baxter; secretary, Charles E. Hill.

NEW WIRELESS STATION ON AFRICAN COAST.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Aug. 29.]

Military engineers are erecting a wireless station on Cape Juby, on the African coast, and expect to have it in operation before October 1. In cases of need at sea the service will be available for ships in distress. As the big installation on Tenerife Island is less than 100 miles from the Cape Juby plant, communication with the Canary Islands will be possible and, through them, with the Spanish mainland.

Cape Juby is a sandy and practically barren projection into the Atlantic Ocean some 67 miles from the island of Fuerteventura of the Canary group, and in the same latitude. It is part of that section of the western Sahara which extends along the Atlantic coast and connects the Mogador district with that of the Rio de Oro. (The last-named was recognized as Spanish territory by the treaty of Paris of 1900.) Water is very scarce on the cape, although it can be obtained in the ravines by sinking wells. The interior region is said to support great numbers of sheep and to produce excellent crops of wheat, barley, and corn. Also, the ocean fisheries at this point are abundant. Fish caught off this coast is consumed in large quantities in the Canary Islands.

A regular steamship service to Cape Juby, with sailings from Santa Cruz de Tenerife on the 28th of each month, has been announced in the newspapers.

CONSUMPTION AND SUPPLIES OF COTTON.

According to preliminary statistics issued by the United States Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, the amount of cotton, exclusive of linters, consumed in the United States during September was 529,227 running bales in 1916, compared with 498,738 in 1915, of which 305,692 bales were consumed in cotton-growing States in 1916 and 275,494 in 1915. Linters consumed during September totaled 61,719 bales in 1916 and 66,769 in 1915. Cotton held in consuming establishments on September 30 amounted to 1,328,332 bales in 1916 and 1,090,111 in 1915, and in public storage and at compresses 2,610,911 bales in 1916 and 2,805,184 in 1915. The imports in September were 7,928 bales, equivalent 500-pound bales, in 1916 and 26,197 in 1915. Exports, including linters, were 526,346 running bales in 1916 and 501,585 in 1915.

Linters held in consuming establishments on September 30 totaled 73,115 bales in 1916 and 104,494 in 1915, and in public storage and at compresses 82,291 bales in 1916 and 57,141 in 1915; exported during September 24,201 bales in 1916 and 10,624 in 1915.

INCREASED SALARIES FOR SWISS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 19.]

The high cost of living in Switzerland resulted in Parliamentary action on September 18 and the enactment of legislation providing for small advances in the compensation of all Federal employees drawing less than \$655 a year. A maximum increase of \$45 a year is provided for all such employees, effective July 1, 1916. The salary budget of the Government will be increased approximately \$1,500,000 by the new measure.

PROGRESS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

Steel merchant vessels building or under contract to be built in private American shipyards on October 1, 1916, according to builders' returns to the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, number 417 of 1,454,270 gross tons. On June 30, 1916, Lloyd's Register reported 439 steel merchant vessels of 1,540,118 gross tons under construction in British shipyards. The American returns cover contracts on which work has not begun, while Lloyd's returns cover only ships on which construction has actually begun. Although British yards have increased their merchant work, the delivery of engines and machinery is slow, and at present the completed output of American and British yards are about equal. During September American yards finished 19 steel merchant vessels of 46,608 gross tons and made new contracts for 47 steel merchant vessels of 208,686 gross tons, about half of which is for Norwegian owners. The month's new contracts equal all the merchant steel tonnage in the United States building or under contract on July 1, 1913, and exceed that on July 1, 1914.

Distribution of Work.

The following table shows the distribution of this work among the several builders of steel vessels in the United States reporting merchant vessels under contract or under construction, and, separately, the number and gross tonnage of the ships building or under contract which the builders expect to launch during the current fiscal year (326 vessels of 998,035 gross tons), and those which will not be launched until some time in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918 (91 vessels of 456,235 gross tons). These dates of launching, of course, are subject to the usual allowances for delays.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Oct. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.
American Bridge Co., Ambridge, Pa., and Trenton, N. J.	102	52,100	102	52,100		
American Shipbuilding Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	27	103,400	27	103,400		
Bethlehem Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.	12	74,863	7	44,066	5	30,827
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	10	37,000	4	21,000	4	16,600
Beth Iron Works, Bath, Me.	3	51,600	6	51,600		
Charles Barnes Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.	2	375	2	375		
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	14	67,700	12	58,700	2	9,000
Cowles Shipyard Co., Buffalo, N. Y.	2	56	2	56		
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Mass.	13	87,900	11	74,444	2	13,356
George Lawley & Sons Corporation, Neponset, Mass.	1	75	1	75		
Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit, Mich.	19	74,130	8	33,630	11	40,510
Great Lakes Towing Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	4	376	4	376		
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation, Wil- mington, Del.	15	63,950	11	46,284	4	17,675
Howard Shipyards Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.	5	2,950	5	2,950		
J. F. Duthie & Co., Seattle, Wash.	5	26,850	1	5,370	4	21,480
James Rees & Sons Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.	1	300	1	300		
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wis.	11	17,450	8	10,700	3	6,750

* Detailed statement new contracts not received.

† Incomplete.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Oct. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.
Merrill-Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla.	4	2,500	4	2,500		
Moore & Scott Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.	7	35,600	3	15,000	4	20,600
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.	14	97,573	8	52,325	6	45,248
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.	26	133,804	18	79,835	8	53,909
Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Co., Gloucester, N. J.	10	65,000	4	27,500	6	37,500
Fussey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.	13	12,150	7	2,550	6	9,600
Ritter-Conley Manufacturing Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.	2	3,000			2	3,000
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.	10	56,700	7	42,000	3	14,100
Skinner & Eddy Corporation, Seattle, Wash.	10	58,640	6	35,720	4	22,920
Spedden Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	3	730	3	730		
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation, New York, N. Y.	6	28,800	6	28,800		
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Richmond, N. Y.	4	5,941	4	5,941		
Sun Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	2	12,400			2	12,400
Tampa Foundry & Machine Co., Tampa, Fla.	1	2,000	1	2,000		
Tank-Ship Building Corporation, Newburg, N. Y.	2	1,000	2	1,000		
Texas Steamship Co., Bath, Me.	4	26,000	2	12,600	2	13,400
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio.	8	20,680	5	15,280	3	5,400
Union Iron Works Co., San Francisco, Cal.	28	*176,028	21	*131,228	7	44,800
Willamette Iron & Steel Works and Northwest Steel Co., Portland, Oreg.	7	30,900	4	22,800	3	17,100
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co., Philadelphia	10	64,200	10	64,200		
Total	417	*1,454,270	326	*998,035	91	456,235

* Incomplete.

Details of New Contracts.

The following table shows the details of new contracts for building steel ships entered into during September, 1916, so far as reported by shipbuilders:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
American Shipbuilding Co.:					
Cleveland yard—					
No. 465	2,100	9½	Not given	Cargo	
Lorain yard—					
No. 721	7,300	11	do	do	
No. 722	7,300	11	do	do	
No. 723	7,300	11	do	do	
Detroit yard—					
No. 203	2,100	9½	do	do	
No. 204	2,100	9½	do	do	
No. 205	2,100	9½	do	do	
No. 206	2,100	9½	do	do	
No. 207	2,100	9½	do	do	
Chicago yard—					
No. 82	2,100	9½	do	do	
Superior yard—					
No. 526	2,100	9½	do	do	
No. 527	2,100	9½	do	do	
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co.:					
No. 83	4,150	11½	do	do	Jan., 1918.
No. 84	4,150	11½	do	do	Feb., 1918.

Vessels.	Gross tonnage	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Great Lakes Engineering Works:					
No. 168	3,600	.....	Gaston, Williams & Wigmore.	Ocean	
No. 169	3,600	.....	do	do	
No. 170	8,000	.....	Pittsburgh S. S. Co.	Lake	
No. 172	2,550	.....	Builder's account.	Ocean	
No. 173	2,550	.....	do	do	
No. 174	2,550	.....	do	do	
No. 175	2,550	.....	do	do	
Moore & Scott Iron Works:					
No. 113	5,000	10½	For Norwegian account	Cargo	June, 1917.
No. 114	5,000	10½	do	do	July, 1917.
No. 115	5,000	10½	do	do	Oct., 1917.
New York Shipbuilding Co.:					
No. 195	5,266	10½	Darrow-Mann Co.	Collier	
No. 196	7,000	11½	Gulf Refining Co.	Bulk oil	
Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Co.:					
No. 1	5,000	11	For Norwegian account	do	
No. 2	5,000	11	do	do	
No. 3	5,000	11	do	do	
No. 4	5,000	11	do	do	
No. 5	5,000	11	do	do	
No. 6	5,000	11	do	do	
No. 7	8,750	11	do	Cargo	
No. 8	8,750	11	do	do	
No. 9	8,750	11	do	do	
No. 10	8,750	11	do	do	
Ritter-Couley Manufacturing Co.:					
.....	1,500	.....	Gulf Refining Co.	Bulk oil	July 1, 1917.
.....	1,500	.....	do	do	Sept. 1, 1917.
Skinner & Eddy Corporation:					
No. 7	5,730	11½	Not given	Cargo	Aug., 1917.
No. 8	5,730	11½	do	do	Nov., 1917.
No. 9	5,730	11½	do	do	Dec., 1917.
No. 10	5,730	11½	do	do	Do.
Tank-Ship Building Corporation:					
No. 4	500	.....	Tampico Navigation Co.	Bulk oil	Mar., 1917.
No. 5	500	.....	do	do	Do.
Union Iron Works Co.:					
No. 154	3,600	9½	A. O. Lindvig (Nor.)	Cargo	1917 delivery.
Willamette Iron & Steel Works & Northwest Steel Co.:					
.....	5,700	10½	For Norwegian account.	do	Winter, 1917-18.
.....	5,700	10½	do	do	Do.
Total (47 vessels).	208,686				

Completed ships.

The following table shows the details of steel ships completed during the month of September, 1916, by the respective builders named. When no rig is shown it will be understood that the vessel is a steamer.

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Type.	Trade.
American Shipbuilding Co. (Cleveland yard):*					
Johan Mjelde	2,049	9½	N. Mjelde (Nor.)	Cargo	Foreign.
Gjovne	2,050	9½	Arthur Mathiesen (Nor.)	do	Do.

* Completed during July and August, but not reported before September.

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Type.	Trade.
American Shipbuilding Co. (Detroit yard):					
Gaute.....	2,050	9½	A. O. Lindvig (Nor.)	Cargo	Foreign.
Gisha.....	2,050	9½	do	do	Do.
Vestland.....	2,050	9½	Erling Lund (Nor.).....	do	Do.
Baltimore Dry Docks & Ship- building Co.:					
Bramell Point (Ga. s.)....	3,250	11½	Vacuum Oil Co.....	Bulk oil...	Do.
Ellicott Machine Corporation:					
P. R. R., No. 27	191	11	Pennsylvania R. R. Co.....	Towing...	Coastwise.
Great Lakes Towing Co.:					
Georgia.....	98	9	Great Lakes Towing Co.....	do	Do.
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.:					
Henry R. Mallory.....	6,200	14	Mallory S. S. Lines.....	Cargo and passenger.	Do.
Pusey & Jones Co.:					
P. R. R. 272 (bge.).....	229	.....	Pennsylvania R. R. Co.....	Cargo.....	Do.
Winterthur.....	103	.....	Philadelphia & Reading R. R. Co.	Towing...	Do.
Staten Island Ship Building Co.:					
P. R. R. No. 151.....	323	.....	Pennsylvania R. R. Co.....	S t e a m lighter.	Do.
Tank-Ship Building Corpora- tion:					
Navegadora 72 (bge.).....	419	.....	Compania de Inversiones de Tampico S. A. (Mex.)	Bulk oil ..	Foreign.
Navegadora 73 (bge.).....	419	.....	do	do	Do.
Navegadora 74 (bge.).....	419	.....	do	do	Do.
Toledo Shipbuilding Co.:					
Twilite.....	1,955	7	Standard Oil Co. (N. J.)....	Cargo	Do.
Union Iron Works Co.:					
D. G. Scofield.....	3,651	11	Standard Oil Co. (Cal.).....	Bulk oil...	Do.
Paulsboro.....	6,985	11	Vacuum Oil Co.....	do	Do.
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co.:					
Samoil	7,157	11	The Sun Co.....	do	Do.
Total (19 vessels).....	46,608				

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Osborne, John Ball.....	Havre, France.....	Oct. 21	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Fika, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Do.
Armstrong, John S.....	Bristol, England.....	.....	1200 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.....	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.....	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana.....	.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L. ^a	Montevideo, Uruguay.....	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.

^a Mr. Spahr will be in New York City from October 10 to 20, and will be pleased to confer with those interested in the Uruguayan trade.

NEW INDUSTRIES IN BARCELONA.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Aug. 29.]

The paralyzation of industrial life in northeastern Spain manifest at the outbreak of the war has gradually disappeared, and exporters have attained a prosperity unparalleled in times of peace, owing to numerous orders from belligerent countries. Called upon to furnish their maximum output, manufacturers were confronted with a want of certain necessary materials used in their mills and hitherto imported, but local enterprises met the situation by the development of branches of industry, new or slightly exploited before the war, that in a large measure supplied what was lacking, although the difficulty in getting machinery rendered the task difficult. Many of the enterprises registered in Barcelona since 1914 are formed with comparatively limited capital, but this is offset by their number and steady output.

Industries Started Since Commencement of War.

Of the new industries started since the war 11 are of considerable importance, among them a factory for making metallic capsules for bottle tops with a capital of about \$50,000, one for electric wire and cable with a capital of \$50,000, one for enameled ironware with a capital of \$30,000, and one for zinc with a capital of \$20,000. Among smaller companies created with capital of \$10,000 and under may be mentioned one for hardware, a foundry, a rolling mill, a factory for galvanized tin and zinc, a needle and metal-button factory, and one for articles of precious metals. No great machinery works have been erected that can in any way replace former supplies from abroad. Existing machinery plants have been greatly augmented and a group of foreign capitalists has acquired and transformed an important iron foundry that had been closed. A former hardware factory has been converted by foreign capital into a large sheet-iron and steel-rolling mill and large machine works are being put up, which when completed will occupy an entire block in the suburbs of Barcelona.

Substituting Imported Chemicals.

The greatest advantages to Catalan enterprise which have resulted from the war are in the field of chemical industries. No other branch felt so keenly the effect of the war at the outset, and the prices to which chemicals rose may be illustrated by the fact that a barrel of certain dyeing material that normally cost about \$50 reached the price of \$1,400. The result was that many manufacturers and experts with little capital and experience began experiments with material available and have been able to substitute many chemicals formerly imported. They succeeded in producing aniline dyes and black dyes of different classes, and by degrees Spanish dyeing establishments were supplied with domestic products. Numbers of chemical works have been registered in Barcelona since 1914, and among the more important are one for nitrogen products with a capital of \$200,000; one for oils and soaps of all classes, capital \$200,000; one for agricultural fertilizers, capital \$140,000; alcohol of all classes, capital \$50,000; glucose and its derivatives, capital \$40,000; aniline dyes, capital \$39,000; drugs, essences, etc., capital \$24,000; and one

for chemical products in general, capital \$20,000. Among those with smaller capital are factories for making liquid lye, inks, varnishes and glue, alcohol, waterproof cloth, rosin, general chemical products, rubber, cupric preparations, sensitized photographic papers and films, the extraction of carbonate of potash from raw wool; carbonic acid; chemical fertilizers and their derivatives; and cream of tartar. Other and more important factories in the chemical line are projected.

The Textile Industries.

Textiles and yarns form an important branch in Catalan industry and are well developed, so it is not remarkable that the textile companies created since the war, while numerous, are not so important as those already existing. Some of the large established cotton mills have been devoted especially to the manufacture of absorbent cotton, an industry already established here, but on a smaller scale. Spanish textiles have been in demand in warring countries as well as in South America, and Catalan producers, accustomed to work for a limited market with many competitors, were suddenly overwhelmed with orders when there was a scarcity of raw material, dyes, needles, and other requisites. Forty-six new textile companies have been registered in Barcelona since the beginning of the war. Some of them are of considerable importance, the chief ones being a silk textile mill, capital \$100,000; a cotton yarn and textile mill, capital \$100,000; a cotton textile and blanket mill, capital \$73,000; a cotton, wool, and silk mill, capital \$40,000; a cotton-knitting mill, capital \$40,000; a cotton-weaving mill, capital \$30,000; a knit goods mill, capital \$25,000; and two for textiles in general, with capital at \$25,000 and \$30,000, respectively.

Tanning and Other Industries.

The local tanning industry has also profited by the war. In a certain part of Catalonia there are peculiar natural facilities for this industry, and at one time Catalan leathers enjoyed a world-wide fame. Since the war 12 new tanneries have been set up in Barcelona, but none of these at present produces fine leathers. The largest of these new tanneries is established with a capital of \$10,000.

Six companies for the preparation of alimentary products have been formed, with capital of \$50,000, \$20,000, and less.

Other companies have been organized, the origin of which may be traced to the war, in that they are destined to replace articles formerly imported. Among them may be mentioned a piano factory, with a capital of \$53,000; a factory for grindstones, crucibles, and emery products, with a capital of \$20,000; and plants for producing straw hats, hydraulic mosaics, glass, pulleys, cardboard boxes, cinematograph films, shirts, briquettes, buttons, antiseptics, neckties, furniture, gramophone disks, toys, and others. Some of these companies would probably have been formed under any circumstances, but there is no doubt that the war has created a situation here which has tended to stimulate industrial activity in all branches.

The Formosa Sugar Association has announced, states the Japanese press, that this year's yield of sugar in Formosa amounted to 4,863,698 piculs (824,246 short tons).

RECENT RESEARCH RESULTS IN BRITISH INDUSTRIES.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, England, Sept. 20.]

The great stimulus that scientific research and invention in industrial enterprises have received in the past few years has resulted in the discovery of numerous synthetic substitutes for important articles, although manufacture on the large scale necessary for practical utilization has in many instances proved too expensive or complicated for extensive adoption.

Besides the theoretically successful production of synthetic rubber, many substitutes have been offered for gasoline, leather, and aniline dyestuffs, and numerous patents have been recorded for processes by which the valuable constituents of waste materials may be recovered and utilized for further manufactures.

Among interesting developments of significance appear the possibilities of wood pulp, which, in addition to the use in paper making, is being employed for producing wholly or in part a variety of artificial silk fabrics, as substitutes for cotton, and for the manufacture of industrial alcohol.

Production of Substitutes for Gasoline.

Substitutes for gasoline have not achieved a notable success in England, because the prevailing types of motors are especially constructed for gasoline combustion rather than because the new kinds of fuel are defective; and in order to prevent a rapid accumulation of foreign matter in engines, the basis of the new substitutes is generally gasoline, which is substantially diluted with other combustible materials. Experiments made with kerosene and benzol for use in internal-combustion engines have met with some success.

Abstracts of noteworthy English patents have appeared recently in abridged form in many British trade journals. Among these are:

Recovery of rubber from rubber fabrics.—The recovery of rubber from rubber fabrics, e. g., tires, may be accomplished by treatment with boiling tetra-chlorethane in a closed vessel. In order to obtain rubber free from uncombined sulphur, this solvent treatment may be carried out in two stages, the sulphur being first dissolved out before the rubber enters into solution. (Eng. Pat. No. 10146, 1915.)

Substitute for leather.—Rosin is dissolved in linseed-oil varnish in such quantities as to produce a viscous mass, which is then kneaded with milk curd into a stiff paste. A small amount of slaked lime is added to the mixture. This paste can be used for impregnating canvas, which, after drying, may be soaked and pressed and employed as a substitute for leather. (Eng. Pat. No. 15064, 1915.)

Other Manufactured Products.

Artificial leather.—Linen duck is coated with a varnish, to which is added a small quantity of siccative and venetian red. Several layers of the dried linen are then joined together in sheets of varying thickness. The adhesive mixture used for this purpose consists of four parts of heated wood-tar pitch, with the addition, during constant stirring, of two parts of india rubber, dissolved in benzol; four parts of venetian red, mixed to a thick consistency with French turpentine oil; and two parts of cork powder. Sheets thus prepared are compressed between powerful rollers. The product, it is claimed, serves as an excellent substitute for leather, especially for the soles of

footwear. It can be easily sewn, pegged, etc., and can replace leather in many of its uses (Eng. Pat. No. 100038; No. 1133, 1916).

Artificial silk.—In the production of artificial silk from cellulose acetate it has been customary to force this material through fine tubes into water or aqueous solutions of bases or salts. It is now claimed that lustrous threads are obtained by squirting the substance into caustic soda lye, saturated with common salt. A solution containing 20 per cent of salt and 5 per cent of caustic soda gives good results (Eng. Pat. No. 13872, 1914).

RESULTS OF GRAYFISH AND TILEFISH CAMPAIGNS.

Increased public interest has been manifested in the grayfish and the landings of tilefish have continued to show the importance of that fishery as a source of food, according to reports received during the past month by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. There are indications that another season will witness a marked development in the grayfish campaign, as a result of the preliminary work done in the course of a portion of the past season. This has been somewhat hampered by an inadequate pack, due in part to the fact that the bill authorizing the work did not become law until the grayfish season was practically over, while the packers did not fully appreciate their opportunity until it was almost too late to take advantage of it. Several canners have declared their desire to pack the fish next spring. The consumer is being educated to use it; several thousand persons passed favorably on it at the fish fair in Eastport, Me.; and individuals and small groups of persons are trying it as a result of the bureau's recommendations.

Landings of Tilefish for the Past Two Months.

The landings of tilefish during August amounted to 1,397,000 pounds, valued at \$46,290, at New York, and 180,000 pounds, worth \$5,400, at Boston, a total of 1,577,000 pounds, valued at \$51,690. The price per pound ranged from 2 to 5 cents. During September 1,002,000 pounds, valued at \$34,800, were landed at New York and 214,528 pounds, selling for \$5,760, at Boston, the totals for the two ports being 1,216,528 pounds and \$40,060. The price per pound ranged from 2 to 4 cents.

The quantity landed at New York during these two months was considerably below the landings in July, but the fishermen obtained a better price, and the total values were almost equal to the result in that month. The fishery for the last four months has been yielding at the rate of about 20,000,000 pounds per annum, but it is probable that it will be less actively prosecuted during the winter. Several of the smaller vessels engaged in it will be withdrawn during October on account of unfavorable weather.

Chilean Congress Passes Antofagasta Port-Works Law.

Consul Thomas W. Voetter reports, under date of September 8, that Chilean newspapers state that the bill providing for the construction of harbor works at Antofagasta (the main features of which were given in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Sept. 5, 1914) has passed both Houses of the National Congress and has been approved by the Council of Government.

JEWELRY MARKETS IN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Norway, Aug. 24.]

The demand for jewelry in Christiania is large, on account of the prosperous conditions in Norway. The war has brought increased wealth to the country, and the sale of luxuries of all kinds, including jewelry, has increased enormously. The statistics do not show the amounts imported from each country, but merchants state that the largest part, especially the 14-karat gold jewelry, comes from Germany. Well-established dealers handle only this class of goods. A large amount of 14-karat jewelry is also made in Norway.

With the increased wealth among the people generally, the market here for medium and low-priced jewelry is good. Competition, however, is very keen, and is met by German manufacturers by concentrating their output on a few patterns or articles which they are able, in this way, to sell at very low prices. An attempt has been made by English and French manufacturers to introduce their goods, but without much success, as the lines chosen were of too good a quality and consequently too high in price.

No Obstacle to Sale of American Goods.

The sale of American jewelry is not large, but if prices are low enough there is no obstacle to their successful introduction. One difficulty, however, is the fact that jewelers do not buy from catalogues but insist upon seeing samples. This is the principal reason why the Germans are in control of such a large part of the market. They send their traveling salesmen through the country with samples and stocks. These travelers frequently represent other lines of goods as well, and expenses are in this way divided among several firms.

The Norwegian import duty on gold and platinum jewelry is 30 crowns per kilo (\$8.04 per 2.2 pounds).

The Public Guardian states that the stamping law of Norway permits the sale of 9 or 10 carat gold jewelry, but it must be stamped in such a way as to be easily legible, and it must be sold in accordance with this stamping. Misrepresentations are subject to criminal action.

The standard goods here are 14-carat, equal to 585/1000 fine. It is permissible to use 582/1000 fine, but if the standard is lower, it is referred to the proper authorities for action. German goods seem to run from 575/1000 to 585/1000.

Silver used in jewelry must be 830/1000 fine and enameled silver 925/1000 fine. The authorities in control make an investigation of jewelry all over the country about once in three years.

[A list of jewelry dealers in Christiania may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to File No. 80059.]

[Vice Consul Wilhelm Hartman, Goteborg, Sweden, July 27.]

Sweden Requires Articles to be Tested and Stamped.

In Sweden articles sold under the name of gold must not contain less than 750/1000 of pure gold. Usually they contain at least 765/1000. All articles of gold and silver offered for sale as such must first be tested and stamped. Articles of gold manufactured abroad are provided with a special stamp. Those made in Sweden

are provided with the comptroller's mark (three crowns within an oval), figures indicating the gold content, the name or initials of the manufacturer, a mark indicating the place of manufacture, and a "Sunday-letter" indicating the year of manufacture. All of these stamps, or at least the comptroller's mark and the carat mark, must be put on by the proper Swedish officers. Gold-plated articles are in the market. They are usually called and labeled "Double."

Articles of silver sold as such must contain at least 820/1,000 of pure silver. They are tested and stamped in about the same manner as gold, with addition of the letter "S." Silver-plated German silver is stamped "N. S." (new silver).

Production of Swedish Goldsmiths and Silversmiths.

This office does not know of any wholesale dealer or jobber in jewelry in Goteborg. The firms engaged in this line of business in this city are really manufacturers on a small scale and retail dealers. In Stockholm and Malmo there are more prominent manufacturers.

The values of the productions of the Swedish goldsmiths and silversmiths in 1914 were: Manufactures of gold, assaying at least 760/1,000 of pure gold, \$313,739; gold manufactures, with lower content of pure gold, \$801; manufactures of silver, \$312,233; gold drawers' products and gold leaf and silver leaf, \$38,940; manufactures of German silver, \$398,424; other articles, \$32,727; repairs, \$24,615; total, \$1,121,479. It is impossible to tell how much of this consisted of jewelry.

The values of the imports of articles of gold (except coins) and of jewelry of other metals than gold, silver, or platina in 1914 were: Gold sheets and wire—from Germany, \$33,220; France, \$6,376; Norway, \$2,685; other countries, \$1,871; total, \$44,152. Other manufactures of gold—from Germany, \$53,345; Denmark, \$12,755; Switzerland, \$6,602; other countries, \$2,586; total, \$75,288. Jewelry of other metals than gold, silver, or platina—from Germany, \$163,377; Austria, \$19,481; Denmark, \$11,151; France, \$6,935; other countries, \$4,241; total, \$205,185.

[A list of jewelry dealers in Goteborg may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79727.]

MUNGUBARANA FIBER OF NORTHERN BRAZIL.

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para, Aug. 31.]

Samples, washed and unwashed, of "mungubarana" fiber, which grows extensively in the State of Para, have been forwarded from the Para consulate. This is supposed to be the longest fiber obtainable in Brazil, and it is stated that with proper machinery a thin product could be obtained.

The samples were presented to the consulate by a citizen of Para, who states that he is in a position to furnish from 12 to 15 tons of the fiber per month. He desires to know the price that interested firms in America would be willing to pay for it. More samples may be obtained through the Para consulate.

[The samples mentioned may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. The name of the person in Para may be obtained from these offices or from the cooperative offices of the Bureau. Refer in either case to file No. 80454.]

POSITION OF GASOLINE SUBSTITUTES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Aug. 31.]

The imports of petroleum products into the United Kingdom in the year 1915 reached in round figures 475,000,000 gallons, or over 1,700,000 tons, compared with 460,000,000 gallons in 1914 and 424,000,000 gallons in 1913, exclusive of Admiralty requirements other than motor spirit and (since August, 1914) of the vast quantities of petroleum products imported by the Government for its own use.

Taking into consideration the import figures of gasoline alone, with which this report is more immediately concerned, it appears that in the year 1915 the United Kingdom imported 146,000,000 gallons of motor spirit, being 26,000,000 gallons in excess of the preceding year and 40,000,000 gallons more than in the year 1913. It is of interest to note that of the total recorded importation of motor spirit in 1915 practically one-half came from the United States and Mexico and nearly all of the remainder from the Far East. The following table gives the figures from January 1, 1915, to July 3, 1916:

Imported from—	1915	Jan. 1–July 3, 1916.
	<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>Gallons.</i>
Dutch East Indies.....	69,450,780	39,418,370
Holland.....	134,100	
Mexico.....	9,045,620	5,225,380
United States.....	60,888,660	25,734,730
Other countries.....	6,815,590	1,890,200
Total	146,334,700	72,268,680

Substitutes now on Market.

This being the statistical position numerous inventors set to work to find efficient fuel substitutes for the use of motor vehicles. Among these substitutes, the new Lightning Motor Fuel, which is designated a "British" product, although all its ingredients have to be imported from foreign countries, may be mentioned. The sole control for the sale of this new motor fuel has been placed in the hands of the Owner-Drivers' Branch of a well-known trade-union (the London and Provincial Licensed Vehicle Workers), which has charge of 2,000 cabs out of the 5,000 still on the London streets. Its secretary stated that a first order of 100,000 gallons of the substitute having proved satisfactory, a further order of 5,000,000 gallons had been placed with the makers by the Owner-Drivers' Branch. It is claimed that the price for the substitute is 50 per cent below that for gasoline (roughly 37 cents a gallon against 73 cents). It consists of 50 per cent of petrol and 50 per cent of chemicals, the nature of which is, however, kept secret.

In connection with a second substitute which seems to be attracting some attention in trade circles, the following interesting facts were obtained:

As regards other substitutes for petrol, I am unable to express an opinion; the new Lightning Motor Fuel is quite new and may not come up to all that is claimed for it. We ourselves are making a substitute, which is an intermediate

between petrol and oil, has a flash point, and is not under the Petrol Control Committee, being an oil and not a spirit; it can also be stored like ordinary lamp oil. The car is first started with petrol and then runs along on our substitute. Some omnibus companies are mixing petrol with paraffin, but it is inconvenient, smelly, and affects the metal parts. * * *

To return to substitutes, they are certain, if efficient, to keep the market after the war, as they will always be cheaper than pure petrol. We are paying £2 (\$9.75) and over per barrel for freight or £12 (\$58.50) a ton (6 barrels to the ton), and this freight is likely to rise; bulk freight is now 150s. (\$38.50) a ton. The substitute you mentioned is probably made of some tar product mixed with petrol, but benzol, though a tar product, being commandeered by the Government * * *, is not likely to be used.

If pleasure riding were stopped altogether, it would relieve the situation somewhat.

The editor of the Petroleum Review, a leading trade paper for the oil industry and an impartial authority, expressed himself on the question in the following terms:

While there is no actual shortage of petrol in general, there is a great uncertainty as to present and future requirements. That the producing countries are not short of stocks is shown by a tendency to lower prices in the United States. * * * There is always room for efficient substitutes, but time alone can tell how they will affect the market in general.

American Cars Run Best on Substitutes Tried.

A few days ago there appeared in a London evening paper a short description of a new substitute which was deemed of sufficient interest to merit closer inquiry. In an interview one of the promoters gave the following details as to this and other substitutes:

We are not only using the substitute you mentioned, but are trying two others; and we find that they are in some respects even better than the first substitute. Petrol is not essential in the substitutes tested; only a little is wanted at the first to start up and warm the vaporizer, after which the car runs along on the pure substitute. It may interest you to hear that the American-made cars run best on the substitutes tried, which contain wood spirit. The specific gravity of petrol is about 0.700 and for the substitute 0.780, which secures a larger volume of vapor; but the manipulation being a little more complicated, more of the substitute has to be used, so that there is, at present, no actual saving to a given mileage. After the war the efficient substitutes are likely to be cheaper than petrol. This will also make us independent of American supplies. Where petrol is absolutely necessary, our colonies, Persia, and Russia, with its immense untapped resources, will be able to supply our needs. As regards a tax on substitutes, I may tell you that the Government is contemplating such action, but even with that we shall be able to beat petrol in competition.

FISH LANDED AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS.

The fishing fleet landing fishery products at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during the month of September, 1916, included 279 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston 315 trips aggregating 10,282,709 pounds of fish, valued at \$361,243; at Gloucester, 181 trips aggregating 6,882,068 pounds, valued at \$252,483; and at Portland, 145 trips amounting to 2,203,604 pounds, valued at \$66,133.

The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 641 trips, aggregating 19,368,381 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$679,859.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Machinery, No. 22698.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in India requesting that it be placed in touch with American manufacturers of machinery for carding and spinning wool to be used in making carpets and rugs, the machinery to turn out from 50 to 100 pounds of yarn per day. Electric power with a voltage of 220 can be obtained to drive the plant. Complete information as to shipping and installation of machinery is desired.

Coconuts and copra, etc., No. 22699.—An American consular officer in Brazil informs the Bureau that a firm in his district would like to communicate with American importers interested in the importation of coconuts and copra. Information by this firm relative to machinery for separating and preparing copra for exportation is also desired.

Paper, No. 22700.—A firm in Australia desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of various kinds of paper. Samples and full information regarding the paper required can be obtained at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 157.)

Machinery, No. 22701.—A firm in the Far East desires to obtain catalogues and prices of cane reeling and skinning machines of all sizes for working rattans and splitting canes for furniture.

Carboys, No. 22702.—An American consular officer in Spain writes the Bureau that a firm in his district wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of carboys of various kinds. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

Glass jars and tin plate, No. 22703.—A fruit-canning factory in Central America desires prices on 1-pint and 1-quart glass jars, with air-tight tops, and tin plate in 50, 70, and 100 pound boxes. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

Artificial driers for copra, No. 22704.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a man in Porto Rico requesting that he be placed in touch with manufacturers of artificial driers for copra.

Ice-cream freezers, No. 22705.—An American consular officer in Italy requests catalogues and price lists of ice-cream freezers.

Textiles, No. 22706.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands transmits the name of a commission house in his district desirous of representing in that country and in the Dutch East Indies American manufacturers and exporters of men's and women's hosiery, sewing threads, shirtings, twills, quilts, and fancy articles. Correspondence in English. Terms, cash upon shipment of goods f. o. b. New York. Reference.

Paper bags, No. 22707.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a firm in Cuba requesting that it be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of manila paper bags.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
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No. 244 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 17 1916

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EXTENSION OF NETHERLANDS EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram received from the American consul, Rotterdam, Oct. 14.]

The following products have been added to the embargo list: Rattan and manufactures thereof, steel waste, scrap iron and steel, spinach, endives, peas, raffia, mustard, willow hoops, rabbits, rabbit meat, fish, wool of every description, bristles and manufactures thereof, apricot pulp, cattle horns, spirits and cordials, sauerkraut, all preserved vegetables, esparto grass, all lumber and planed boards for cigar and other boxes, rushes, turkeys, geese, bananas, oatmeal and other oat products, linoleum, horsehair and manufactures thereof, all fertilizers containing phosphoric acid, stearine, paraffine, China tallow, Japan tallow or wax, all vegetable waxes and mixtures thereof, fresh and preserved apples and pears, lime (ground and unground), limestone and shells, preserved meat and meat products, cattle hair and manufactures thereof, casein.

EMBARGO ON CATTLE IN MEXICO.

The Department of State has received a cablegram from the special representative of that department in Mexico stating that a decree by Carranza, dated October 5, has been published in the press, which forbids the exportation of cattle from Mexico except through the following ports: Nogales, Naco, Agua Prieta, Ciudad Juarez, Ojinaga, Boquillas, Villa Acuna, Laredo, and Matamoras. A zone 20 kilometers wide, parallel to the border, has been fixed, and any movement north or south of cattle bred outside of this zone is considered unlawful, and the cattle are liable to confiscation.

Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, of Barranquilla, reports that Colombia's budget estimates for the coming year place the expenditures at \$16,354,485 and the income at \$14,720,000, leaving a deficit of \$1,634,485.

RENEWAL OF SOCIETY ISLANDS STEAMSHIP CONTRACT.

[Consul Thomas B. L. Layton, Tahiti, Society Islands, Aug. 25.]

An article was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for March 27, 1916, concerning the contract between the Union Steamship Co. (Ltd.), of Dunedin, New Zealand, and the Government of the French Establishments in Oceania whereby this company furnished the only steamship service to the colony connecting it with the United States, New Zealand, and Australia. American shipowners were advised to consider the opening that would be offered them to bid on the agreement for furnishing this service upon the expiration of the existing contract. Notice is now given that negotiations are in progress for its renewal.

The life of the new contract will be either for the duration of the war or until the close of 1918. The terms will be practically the same as under the old agreement, which is to end on November 1, 1916.

May Involve Only Slight Alterations.

The essential terms of the expiring contract, as published in the report mentioned, had already undergone certain modifications at that time, but these were not then available. There may be no alterations, or only slight ones, in the instrument now being framed between the contracting parties.

An important clause in the agreements between the colony and the company in the past has been that which permitted the operation of the vessels in such a manner as to cause the northbound ships to sail for San Francisco 48 hours before the arrival of the southbound vessels. It is not likely that any different arrangement in this respect will be made in the new contract. The same order of sailings and arrivals applies to the departures for Australia and New Zealand. The southbound ships leave two days before the northbound vessels reach port. Under this arrangement mail remains unanswered for 28 days, the interval between sailings and arrivals.

[Copies of the present contract for this steamship service, in French and in English, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81080.]

EUROPEAN COFFEE STOCKS.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, France, Sept. 28.]

The total coffee stocks in Europe on July 31, 1916, amounted to 3,555,000 bags, of which 2,877,000 bags came from Brazil and 678,000 bags from other sources. These stocks were distributed as follows, in bags: Havre, 2,376,000; Marseille, 255,000; Bordeaux, 95,000; England, 601,000; and the Netherlands, 228,000 bags.

The following table shows the coffee stocks in bonded warehouse at Havre on August 31, 1916:

Kinds.	Bags.	Kinds.	Bags.	Kinds.	Bags.
Santos	1,499,502	Miscellaneous	7,538	French colonies—Con.	
Other Brazilian	481,378	French colonies:		New Caledonia	907
Haitian	82,721	Guadeloupe, Mar-		Miscellaneous	1,598
Various West Indian,		tinique	1,515	Total	2,512,505
Central American,		Madagascar, Re-		In course of discharge.	195,479
Venezuelan	115,700	union	916	Grand total	2,808,468
Java	1,238	Indo-China	1,513		
Malabar	18,257				

LAMPS AND LAMP CHIMNEYS IN MALAYSIA.

[Vice Consul David J. Lewis, Singapore, Straits Settlements, Aug. 23.]

From information at hand it would appear that the sale of American lamps and especially lamp chimneys should be exceptionally good in Malaysia. The principal objection to the Japanese lamp chimneys at present sold in this market is that they are poorly made, contain large bubbles, and are so shaped as to cause most lamps to smoke unnecessarily. With the exception of Singapore, Penang, and a few of the larger towns, the ordinary oil lamp is the only means of illumination, and even in Singapore there are considerable sections where gas and electric lighting are not available and where the residents must rely on oil lamps. There is, of course, a large demand in the country districts and most of the estate residents would gladly pay higher prices for lamp chimneys of a better grade.

It is understood that in China an American company, in order to increase the sale of its oil, has placed on the market a good low-priced lamp that has found a ready sale. Apparently the sale of this lamp has not been pushed in this district. In addition to the higher grade lamps it would appear that a cheaper variety for sale to the laboring classes would, if properly advertised, find a ready market. The Methodist Publishing House has sold in this market for a number of years an American student lamp that has been well liked and has found a ready sale, but the manager of this firm states that he has not been able to secure a further supply.

Imports of Lamps and Lampware.

The value of the imports of lamps and lampware into the Straits Settlements for 1915 was \$65,859, as compared with \$137,927 for 1914. Of the 1915 imports, \$3,184 worth came from the United States, while \$5,143 worth was imported from the United States in 1914. In 1915 the imports from Japan amounted to \$8,653 against \$2,517 for 1914, while there was a decrease in the supply from Germany from \$70,792 to \$9,431. Imports from the United Kingdom show \$25,626 for 1915, compared with \$43,030 for 1914.

DEMONSTRATIONS OF FARM TRACTORS IN THE LOIRE.

[Vice Consul Davis B. Levis, St. Etienne, France, Sept. 25.]

Keeping pace with farm-tractor trials and demonstrations in the United States, the Services Agricoles of the Department of the Loire will shortly begin a series of similar events to exemplify the new "mechanical culture," as the employment of gasoline-propelled farm implements is termed in France. The Prefet of the Department has called the attention of the farming population to these demonstrations, advising that they will have the cooperation of the highest civil, military, scientific, and mechanical authorities of the region, and earnestly appealing for attendance and investigation.

The program as proposed will occupy several days. There will be deep and stubble plowing, with demonstrations of other uses of gasoline tractors for farm labor. A number of machines for seed drilling, potato digging, manure spreading, etc., will also be exhibited and practical demonstrations made by experts to illustrate the advantages of their use.

INCREASING METAL PRODUCTION IN THE FAR EAST.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Japan, Sept. 7.]

A prospectus has been published by the promoters of the Oriental Iron Smelting Co., which is to work the Taochun Iron Mine, Anhui, China, by taking over the concession obtained by the Chino-Japanese Industrial Development Co. from the Peking Government.

The proposed company, according to the prospectus, which is reviewed by the Japan Times, will have a capital of 25,000,000 yen (\$12,462,500), with which to complete one plant for the production of 170,000 tons of pig iron annually and another for the production of 150,000 tons of steel materials annually out of waste iron ores.

The company will depend principally upon the Taochun Mine for its raw material, but ores will also be imported from Chosen and elsewhere for the purpose of maintaining a regular supply. The pig iron produced will be used in the manufacture of steel materials not exceeding 5 inches in size and under one-half inch in thickness, for which there is the greatest demand in this country.

Plants to be Installed in Three Years.

The construction of works and plants will cost 13,680,000 yen (\$9,311,980). The whole amount is to be expended in three years, and at the end of the third year the buildings will be completed and the plants fully installed. It is planned, however, that half the required capital shall be paid in, and the other half raised by floating a loan rather than by sale of shares.

During the three years required for the preparations, the company will pay interest at 5 per cent per annum on the capital paid in, and during the year after the commencement of actual operations, shareholders are assured of annual dividends at 7 per cent, although the total volume of production will be half the maximum. During the second year following the commencement of actual business, the company will pay 8 per cent per annum, as then the total volume of production will have increased to three-fourths of the maximum, while during and after the third year dividends at 10 per cent per annum are expected to be paid; as then the maximum production will have been attained, and the net profit will be raised to 3,458,700 yen (\$1,984,379).

Zinc Refining of Recent Origin.

The zinc-refining industry in Japan is of recent origin. Up to 1910 all the zinc required was imported. The zinc refinery as an industrial enterprise in Japan, says the Japan Advertiser, owes its origin to the founding of the Mitsui Zinc Refinery in Miike, Kyushu, in March, 1910. In the same year the Osaka Zinc Refining Co. in Osaka, and the Nippon Zinc Electric Refining Co. in Isojima, Niigata Prefecture, were started.

Since the outbreak of the European war, with the stoppage of the usual foreign sources of supply, the output of the three companies mentioned has increased to a total of 20,000 tons, or two-thirds of Japan's requirements. About 10,000 tons are being imported at present.

It is said that there are rich veins of zinc ore in all parts of Japan. Up to 1910, ore containing less than 40 per cent of zinc was thrown away, and only the finer grades containing more than 40 per cent were exported.

VESSELS ENTERING AND CLEARING SPANISH PORTS.

[Consul General Carl Balley Hurst, Barcelona, Aug. 30.]

Recently published official statistics show the movement at the ports of Spain and the Balearic Islands during the first six months of 1916 as compared with the first six months of the two preceding years. Of the vessels entering the number has steadily decreased, as well as the amount of tonnage and merchandise discharged, but the number of vessels clearing during the first six months of 1916 showed a marked increase compared with the same period in 1915. The decrease of 909 vessels entering in the first six months of 1916 was chiefly in those under the Spanish flag, amounting to 635, while 274 were under foreign flags. There was an increase of 1,277 vessels clearing, of which 871 were under the Spanish flag and 406 under foreign flags.

The following table shows the total number of vessels entering and clearing Spanish ports during the first six months of the past three years, with their total tonnage and the amount of merchandise discharged and shipped:

	Jan.-June, 1914.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
ENTERING.			
Vessels.....number..	10,197	7,467	6,558
Tonnage.....metric tons..	12,435,391	7,133,262	5,453,872
Merchandise discharged.....do.	2,926,794	1,793,691	1,653,398
CLEARING.			
Vessels.....number..	9,206	6,392	8,160
Tonnage.....metric tons..	11,156,362	6,992,786	6,994,445
Merchandise shipped.....do.	6,814,767	4,223,447	5,556,905

NEW ZEALAND WHEAT AND OAT RETURNS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 13.]

New Zealand harvested 334,139 acres of wheat during the 1915-16 season. The crop from 328,017 acres was thrashed and yielded 7,070,814 bushels, or about 21.56 bushels per acre for the Dominion, while the crop from 6,122 acres was fed to stock.

Early in the season it was reported that 379,869 acres of oats had been sown in this Dominion, but only 7,489,749 bushels were thrashed from 209,730 acres, averaging 35.71 bushels to the acre, the remainder having been either cut for fodder or used for pasturage. The dry season shortened the crop in some sections.

The outlook for 1916-17 seems good, and preparations for a large acreage are being made.

FURTHER INCREASE IN SUEZ CANAL CHARGES.

[Robert Woods Bliss, secretary of American embassy, Paris, France, Sept. 26.]

According to a communication which has just been received from the Cie Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez, the tolls, which were to be increased on October 5, 1916, to 7.25 francs (\$1.40) a ton on laden ships and 4.75 francs (\$0.90) a ton on ships in ballast, will again be raised by 50 centimes on and after January 1, 1917, on which date the tolls will be established at 7.75 francs (\$1.50) a ton on laden vessels and 5.25 francs (\$1) on those in ballast.

INCREASED CROP OF ALMERIA GRAPES.

[Consular Assistant Bartley F. Yost, Almería, Spain, Sept. 4.]

From inquiries addressed to the leading growers and exporters of Almería grapes, it develops that this year's crop will probably exceed that of last year by 30 or 35 per cent, the total production being estimated at 2,000,000 barrels of 50 pounds each, as compared with 1,724,682 barrels in 1914 and 1,311,204 in 1915.

There was abundant rainfall during the early growing season, which enabled the growers to store more than the usual quantity of flood waters in their reservoirs. This is in contrast with the past few years, which have been characterized by long periods of drought. The fruit has undergone a normal development and the bunches are larger and healthier than usual. There has not been as much complaint about mildew as in former years, although it is reported that a few early shipments arrived on the Liverpool market in bad condition.

Exports and Prices of Grapes—Freight Rates.

The vintage began with an initial shipment of 3,187 barrels of "castiza" grapes to Liverpool on July 25. Up to the present there have been exported 152,428 barrels, as compared with 38,550 barrels on the corresponding date of 1915. So far all the grapes have been shipped to the British markets, Liverpool being in the lead with 74,467 barrels. The prices realized have been unusually high, ranging from 12 to 26 shillings (\$2.92 to \$6.32). Latterly there has been a sharp decline in prices on the British markets, with the demand continuing. The freight rates are 60 shillings with 10 per cent per ton of 25 barrels.

It is not known definitely when the first cargo will proceed to New York, no vessels being announced as yet. From present prospects the shortage of vessels will not be a serious handicap.

Unless American buyers pay as good prices as last year, or the past few years, the shipments to the United States will again be limited. This is due to the high prices and increased demands in the European markets, coupled with lower freight rates, shorter hauls, lower customs charges, and free entry. Even with the prices paid on the New York markets last year, many growers who shipped to the United States realized no profits and others actually lost money. It is frequently reported that if the American markets are not favorable this year and the English buyers are unable to take the increased quantities some of the fruit may not be shipped at all.

Increased Marketing Cost.

The financing of the vintage and shipments leave much to be desired, the usual advances being considerably curtailed. Barrel materials, cooperage, cork dust, cartage, labor, and freight rates are decidedly higher than last year. Owing to the large number of mules shipped to the belligerent countries there is a shortage of draft animals, and as most of the fruit must be carted long distances from the interior of the Province, it will mean slow deliveries and higher costs. The shipments to the American markets will therefore depend largely upon whether or not buyers in the United States will meet these extra expenses.

MOTOR TRACTORS ON SCOTCH FARMS.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Sept. 22.]

Since the exhibition tests of motor plows and tractors were made near Stirling, Scotland, in October, 1915, under the auspices of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Edinburgh, the sales of such plows and tractors have been gradually extending. American tractors for various power purposes on farms were among those used in the demonstrations at Stirling and elsewhere last fall and won favor among farmers in the Highlands and Lowlands.

Advantages which enterprising Scotch farmers have derived from the use of tractors are discussed by the Elgin Courant and Courier, which states:

A month or two ago we chronicled the fact that one of our most progressive farmers had purchased a motor tractor in order to overtake his work. He farms in all about 1,000 acres. The tractor is of the Mogul build and of 25 horsepower. In the spring he found the tractor of great advantage in the plowing of his land, as it saved a considerable amount of labor. Now, with the harvest, he has put the tractor to further use by having it attached to two binders for the cutting of his crops. Again the tractor has given the utmost satisfaction, and already more than 100 acres of oats, barley, and wheat have been cut. It has been found that the binders work far more steadily when drawn by the tractor than by horses.

The tractor has created a great deal of interest, and agriculturalists from Aberdeen, and even from Edinburgh, have visited the farms and inspected it at work.

A farmer near Elgin has secured a tractor of the same make and is using it as a harvest machine. It is understood that the work is highly satisfactory. This farmer recently introduced a new mill, and he finds the tractor of great value.

No doubt within the next year or two many new tractors will be introduced into Morayshire.

REVENUE OF DUTCH POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

According to an official report from the Post Office Department of the Netherlands, the total receipts of that department, which includes also the telegraph and telephone service, were \$9,338,380 in 1915, as compared with \$9,629,910 during the preceding year, a decrease of \$291,530. Itemized, the receipts for 1914 and 1915 were:

	1914.	1915.
Postal service.....	\$7, 426, 950	\$7, 216, 704
Telegraph service.....	1, 019, 470	930, 630
Telephone service.....	1, 183, 490	1, 191, 046
Total.....	9, 629, 910	9, 338, 380

SHIPPING PROFITS AND DIVIDEND OF TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Japan, Sept. 6.]

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha it was decided to recommend to the next general meeting of shareholders of this shipping company that a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent per annum be declared for the first half of the present fiscal year. In its report of this action the Japan Gazette states that the net profit for the half-year amounts to 2,736,000 yen (\$1,362,996), while that for the preceding term was only 1,190,000 yen (\$593,215). The company has, therefore, set aside 1,000,000 yen (\$498,500) for the payment of accounts due to shipbuilding yards.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**AUSTRIA.**

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Carlsbad, Sept. 16.]

Erection of Tuberculosis Hospital.

The local authorities of the political district of Teplitz have decided upon and are planning the erection of a tuberculosis hospital in connection with the present district hospital. The new hospital will contain 54 beds and will cost \$100,000.

CANADA.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Oct. 6.]

Building Modern Warehouses.

One of the most up-to-date commercial warehouses in the Canadian Maritime Provinces is now nearing completion in Moncton, having been built to the order of the Sumner Co., a local hardware concern.

The building, which is about 40 feet in height, has three stories and a basement and is constructed throughout of brick. The foundation is of concrete, the ground area being 40 by 170 feet. The floors are of concrete, supported with massive concrete pillars and transversal beams. The concrete so used is strongly reinforced with steel, and steel window sashes and frames further add to the strength of the walls. The stairways and floors are of concrete. An electric elevator has been installed, and there will also be a carrier crane on each floor to move weighty stock from one section to another. There are four large steel doors on each side after the style of a railway freight house. The warehouse will be ready for occupation within a few weeks.

The Reed Co., another large local merchandising house, is building a storage warehouse similar to the one just described, but this will not be completed for several months.

COLOMBIA.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Sept. 20.]

New Port Projected—Medellin Hospital.

Interest in the prospect of Barranquilla becoming a seaport by the opening of the mouth of the Magdalena River is being stimulated locally, and the question is being agitated of having local firms subscribe to a fund to be used in the United States for carrying on a propaganda advertising the commercial advantages of Barranquilla.

Plans have been drawn in Europe for a hospital which it is proposed to erect in the city of Medellin when the necessary funds can be obtained. The cost estimate is said to approach \$1,000,000.

City May be Moved to More Healthful Site.

The sanitation of the port of Buenaventura is occupying the attention of the Colombian Government to a greater extent than ever, since the recent visit of the Yellow Fever Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation. From plans submitted by the house of Pearson & Son it is estimated that it will cost \$15,000,000 gold to accomplish this work and the prospect of this great expense has led to the

consideration of a substitute plan for moving the town of Buenaventura to the Bay of Malaga, some 25 miles to the westward of its present site. No decision on this matter has been announced by the Colombian Government.

VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Sept. 19.]

Electric Plant for Barinas.

A Caracas newspaper states that on September 12 a company was organized in Barinas, Venezuela, to build an electric light plant in that city. Officers: Sr. Jesus M. Rodriguez, president; Sr. Rafael Parra Bastidas, vice president; Sr. Simon Jiménez, secretary.

FOREIGN FRESH MEAT IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 19.]

Shortly before the present war began foreign chilled meat had for the first time been introduced into Holland. Although this country produced a surplus of beef, pork, and mutton, little displacement of the home product resulted, as the chilled meat (especially that from Argentina) could be sold at lower prices, and therefore was bought by poor people who could not afford to buy the domestic article. By increasing freight rates and causing other transportation difficulties, the war has entirely stopped this importation of meat, which in the years 1913 and 1914 amounted to about 3,000,000 pounds and was growing rapidly in quantity.

To be deprived of this cheap meat is less of a hardship at present than it would have been before the war, as many of the people who then bought it of necessity receive higher wages now. And that the cessation of all importation of foreign fresh meat has had no serious effect, so far as sufficiency of supply in Holland is concerned, is indicated by the fact that the export of fresh meat from this country in 1915 was 76,000 tons, against 74,000 tons in 1914 and 61,000 in 1913.

ESTIMATE OF JAPANESE RICE CROP.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Sept. 5.]

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce estimates the probable rice crop for 1916 at 55,611,771 koku (284,732,268 bushels), showing a decrease of 312,819 koku (1,601,533 bushels) compared with 1915, but an increase of 3,501,279 koku (17,926,548 bushels) compared with the average crop since 1905. The figures of yearly production since that date are:

Years	Koku	Bushels.	Years.	Koku.	Bushels.
1906.....	46,302,530	237,068,954	1912.....	50,222,509	257,139,248
1907.....	49,062,065	251,146,573	1913.....	50,255,267	257,306,967
1908.....	51,933,893	265,891,532	1914.....	57,006,541	291,673,490
1909.....	52,437,662	268,480,829	1915.....	55,924,590	286,323,390
1910.....	46,683,376	238,752,894	1916 (forecast).....	55,611,771	284,732,268
1911.....	51,712,433	264,767,657	Average year.....	52,110,492	266,805,719

GREEK CURRANT HARVEST COMPLETED.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Greece, Sept. 14.]

The 1916-17 currant harvest is now over and all the fruit has been safely stored. Official and commercial estimates agree in putting the yield at about 100,000 tons of dried fruit, as contrasted with a normal crop of 150,000 tons. The shortage is attributed to the presence of peronospora and oidium in the vineyards; also to the extremely hot weather that prevailed throughout the country in June, when a new high-temperature record was set. The quality of the fruit is reported to be good. No rains fell during the harvest season, and consequently there is no rain-damaged fruit. The harvesting was effected in good time and order. The shortage of fruit is not confined to any one Province or district but is general and affects all grades of currants.

Owing to the short crop and, no doubt, in part to the belief of growers that the world markets will be willing to pay fancy prices for fruit, prices are higher locally than they have been for more than 10 years. The following tabulation will indicate the quotations for the different grades of currants sold to American markets on September 15, 1915 and 1916. The figures are per hundredweight of 112 pounds and represent the net cost of the fruit—freight, insurance, packing charges, and the like not being included. The prices are those quoted by exporters for the foreign market:

Grade.	Price per 112 pounds.		Grade.	Price per 112 pounds.	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
Provincials.....	\$5.23	\$9.73	Gulf.....	\$5.96	\$10.46
Amalias.....	5.35	9.98	Gulf, fine.....	6.03	10.58
Amalias, fine.....	5.47	9.98	Gulf, choice.....	6.33	10.71
Amalias, choice.....	5.72	10.22	Gulf, choicest.....	6.63	10.83
Amalias, choicest.....	5.76	10.34	Vostizza.....	6.45	11.31
Patras.....	5.60	10.46	Vostizza, fine.....	6.63	11.50
Patras, fine.....	5.90	10.46	Vostizza, choice.....	6.93	11.50
Patras, choice.....	6.14	10.58	Vostizza, choicest.....	7.30	11.98
Patras, choicest.....	6.51	10.71	Vostizza, shade.....	8.03	12.41

DECIMAL SYSTEM ADVOCATED FOR BRITISH EMPIRE.

Special interest in the possibility of adoption of the decimal system of weights, measures, and currency throughout the British Empire has been created by a resolution voted at a special business conference of the British Imperial Council of Commerce, held in London. The resolution was as follows:

That the British Imperial Council of Commerce be requested, by representation to the Imperial and Dominion Governments, and otherwise, to make every effort to bring about the adoption throughout the Empire of a uniform decimal system of weights, measures, and currency, in order that trade relations with foreign countries may be developed and extended.

The meetings in the course of which the resolution was adopted were attended by representatives of leading chambers of commerce and boards of trade of the British Empire. Action on this same subject, as taken by the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, was mentioned in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 8, 1916.

SHIPMENTS OF BEANS FROM BRITISH CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Aug. 30.]

While the volume of exports of beans from Hongkong is such as to constitute the port an independent market, it seems unlikely that this city will be of any importance in trade in beans with the United States. There are no statistics of the local imports and exports of this product, but the volume is considerable. It is confined, however, to trade in beans imported from North China and the Yangtse Valley for sale to South China, Indo-China, Formosa, the Philippines, and various other portions of southeast Asia.

Since the product handled here is almost exclusively from North China, northern Chinese ports have the advantage in exports to the United States. This advantage may often be overcome by superior trade machinery and facility in financing transactions afforded by Hongkong, but as a rule the trade is likely to be direct from a northern port to the United States. At none of these places usually is there difficulty in packing beans properly for export. As a rule they are shipped in gunny bags holding 100 pounds each.

Inferior to Those Demanded in American Market.

Most of the beans handled in Hongkong are of grades far inferior to those demanded in the American market. It is likely that some trade could be done in the Chinese white bean as a substitute for the American navy bean, and in the Chinese red bean as a substitute for the American red kidney bean. There are also on the market varieties known as the yellow, the black, and the green or Mongo bean. The last-mentioned class is a notable item in the export trade from Hongkong to the Philippines, shipments to the islands at present running at the rate of about \$75,000 annually in value. Some beans are now shipped from Hongkong to the United States, amounting in 1915 to about \$31,000, but they are imported into the United States chiefly for the use of Chinese residents.

Practically no beans of exportable varieties are produced in South China. Beans grown locally are used green, little of the ripened product getting into other than local markets.

[An article on the production of edible beans in Manchuria was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 7, 1916.]

CATALOGUES FOR ALL CONSULATES.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Honduras, Oct. 2.]

Recently the promoter of a local enterprise called at the Puerto Cortes consulate and asked for the catalogue of certain American makers of machinery. The consulate did not have the catalogue of this particular firm on file, but had available the catalogues of other American manufacturers of similar articles. These were put at the disposal of the inquirer, with the result that, time being an important element, an order was placed with one of the firms that had taken the precaution to supply the consulate with its catalogue.

The article purchased was one of rare demand in this district and of but negligible value, and the incident is mentioned only to emphasize to those manufacturers who are seeking foreign trade the importance of keeping catalogues and price lists on file in all consulates.

ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA.

[Consul General P. S. Helntzleman, Mukden, Aug. 21.]

The normal growth of Mukden as a leading center of Manchuria and its prospects for the future recently caused the Mukden Electric Light Works to increase the capacity of the plant by the installation of a set of turbo-generators, the first of the kind set up in Manchuria, to supply the city and its environs more extensively with light, and also to furnish electric power for the various industries that have developed here during the past few years.

The Chinese Government mint here is the first institution of its kind in China to adopt the use of electric power. The Chinese people, on account of the increase in the price of kerosene, have become large consumers of electricity, while a small cotton mill, a flour mill, a cigarette factory, and several printing houses owned and controlled by natives have dispensed with a great deal of manual labor, and now run their plants with motors of varying capacity. Mukden is said to be the best lighted city in China, not excepting Shanghai.

Established by Provincial Government Grant.

The plant at Mukden was established in 1908 by a Provincial Government grant of \$250,000. Various additions made since that date in order to deal with the electrical development of Mukden soon filled the original buildings, and in 1914 it was decided to install an up-to-date turbine plant. The new and powerful generating equipment cost \$30,412. The General Electric Co. furnished two high-pressure turbo-alternators. There are three Babcock & Wilcox boilers.

At Mukden and Changchun the South Manchuria Railway Co. (Japanese) maintains electric light plants. The Provincial Government of Kirin owns and operates the electric light plants at Kirin, the capital of that Province, and at Changchun. At Liaoyang, Tiehling, and Kungchuling, electric light plants under Sino-Japanese control have been installed. Another Sino-Japanese public service enterprise is the Yingkou Electricity Co. at Newchwang. The South Manchuria Railway Co. has installed extensive electric light works at Fushun, the new mining town near Mukden which has grown up around the well-known Fushun colliery. The machinery and supplies used in the installations at Mukden and Changchun are mostly of American manufacture, while the one at Kirin has principally German materials. Japan supplies most of the machinery and fittings for the other plants named.

Improvements and Enlargements Under Way.

Improvements and enlargements in the Chinese electric light plants at Kirin and Changchun are being made, while an entirely new plant is being constructed at Chinchou, a newly opened town situated on the Peking-Mukden Railway in South Manchuria. The estimated cost of this plant is about \$40,000. The new equipment at Kirin and Changchun, as well as all the machinery and supplies for the new plant at Chinchou, are to be of American manufacture.

The extensive use of electricity and its up-to-date application by the Japanese in connection with the coal-mining industry at Fushun calls for special comment. The colliery railway, 7 miles long, connecting Fushun station with the five mining pits, has been electrified.

There are three General Electric Co. electric locomotives, each of which is equipped with four 100-horsepower motors. A system of automatic block light signals has been supplied by the Union Switch Signal Co. of the United States. For shunting use at each of the pits a 25-ton shunting locomotive of 4-wheel type is employed, each equipped with two 55-horsepower 1,200-volt motors.

Electric Railway to Mining Pits Opened.

Another electric railway from the Hun-ho River to the mining pits, also 7 miles, has been opened. This line is used exclusively for transporting sand in connection with the sand-flushing system. It is operated with three electric double-bogie locomotives.

For passenger service between the mining pits and the central residence quarter two motor cars, each equipped with 80-horsepower 1,200-volt motors, are used. The electrification of these railways on the overhead high-tension, direct-current system is new to the Far East.

Electric current is also supplied to all the pits to serve as the motive power as well as for lighting both on the surface and underground. All office buildings, streets, and residences are lighted by electricity. That it is used so extensively at Fushun is due to the fact that it can be produced so economically by the Mond gas-power plant. The present capacity there is soon to be doubled.

[A description of the Mukden electric-light plant was given in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Feb. 17, 1910.]

EXPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

The dairy interests of New Zealand enjoyed a prosperous season, ended June 30, 1916, and all promises well for an increased output during the present year with increased prices. At present the wholesale price of butter in New Zealand is 34 cents per pound f. o. b. steamer.

The Auckland dairying district is the great butter-producing section of the country, having exported during the year ended June 30, 1916, 25,831,120 pounds of butter valued at \$7,807,628, out of a total export from New Zealand of 45,180,576 pounds. Besides this the cheese shipped from the Auckland district was valued at \$1,508,498 out of a total of \$16,279,970 for the whole Dominion. The southern part of the north island and the south island are the great cheese-producing sections.

The shipping conditions have been improving somewhat during the past few months and promise to improve more in the future, so that the consignments of dairy products may go forward more regularly in the future than in the past.

TWO NEW WIRELESS STATIONS FOR COLOMBIA.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Sept. 20.]

It is reported that the two Marconi outfits purchased by the Colombian Government some time ago will soon be delivered. It is intended to establish these two stations at Arauca and Orocué. The former is situated on the Arauca River where it forms the boundary between Colombia and Venezuela, and the latter is on the Meta River some 200 miles east of Bogota.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Chests, No. 3688.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1916, for furnishing 50 radio pack-set chests, complete with legs, empty. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 874.)

Pine lumber, No. 3689.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 177,000 feet b. m. longleaf yellow-pine lumber. Full information will be furnished on application to the above-named officer.

Construction work, No. 3690.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Coast Guard, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1916, for constructing a Coast Guard station and accessories at Velasco, Tex. Specifications and drawings may be obtained upon application to the Superintendent, Ninth District, Coast Guard, Galveston, Tex., the Keeper, Coast Guard Station No. 219, Velasco, Tex., or to the above named office.

Subsistence supplies, No. 3691.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until October 23, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before November 14, 1916, canned sliced beef, canned sausage, and canned beef tongue. Further information can be had on application to the above-named office.

Locomotive crane, No. 3692.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for furnishing one locomotive crane at the Naval Coal Depot, San Diego, Cal. Specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Balloons, No. 3693.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until November 2, 1916, for furnishing spherical balloons for free flights, and kite-type military captive balloons. Specifications will be furnished on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 873.)

Furniture, No. 3694.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Depot Quartermaster, War Department, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until November 1, 1916, for furnishing bookcases, dining room chairs, library chairs, library desks, sideboards, dining room tables, library tables, divans, hall trees, kitchen tables, etc. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Lead pipe, No. 3695.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 22, 1916, for furnishing lead sleeving, wiping solder, and half-and-half solder. Drawings and specifications will be furnished on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 872.)

Earthwork construction, No. 3696.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Queen & Crescent Building, New Orleans, La., until November 3, 1916, for the construction of about 498,000 cubic yards of earthwork in the Lafourche Levee District. Further information will be furnished on application to the above-named office.

Subsistence supplies, No. 3697.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until October 20, 1916, for furnishing canned salmon, flour, baking powder, rice, canned tomatoes, prunes, evaporated peaches, blackberry jam, tea, coffee, pickles, granulated sugar, canned beans, canned beef, chocolate candy, crackers, macaroni, etc. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Medical supplies, No. 3608.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 27, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., acetic acid, boric acid, nitric acid, aqua ammonia, antiphlogistine, enameled-ware basins, forceps, iodoform gauze, surgical scissors, etc. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Do.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Chum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guyana.....	.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.....	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 501 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.

OVER-SEA LUMBER SHIPMENTS FROM NOVA SCOTIA.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 3.]

Shipment of lumber from Nova Scotia ports to over-sea consignees is becoming a prominent feature in the trade of that Province. The new four-masted schooner *Ada Tower*, built at Port Greville, sailed recently for a European destination with 595,000 superficial feet of spruce and hardwood. The three-masted schooners *Kenneth C*, with 482,124 superficial feet of hardwood deals, and *Silver Leaf*, with 359,000 superficial feet of spruce deals and scantling, also lately cleared from Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, for trans-Atlantic ports.

These vessels are much smaller than those usually engaged in the foreign trade, but they have been found serviceable in these days of tonnage scarcity.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

- Lumber*, No. 22708.—A commission merchant in the West Indies asks the Bureau to place him in touch with exporters of lumber, particularly those located in the Gulf States. Quotations on the various classes and grades of lumber are desired.
- Sewing machines, etc.*, No. 22709.—An American consular officer in India reports that a merchant in his district desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of sewing machines, cement, caustic soda, cotton yarns, etc.
- Provisions, etc.*, No. 22710.—A commercial organization in the United States informs the Bureau that a firm in Greece desires to be placed in touch with American exporters of grain, sugar, sulphate of copper, coffee, rice, kidney beans, linen bags, flour, etc.
- Enameled ware, etc.*, No. 22711.—A firm of wholesale and retail merchants in British East Africa informs an American consular officer of its desire to receive catalogues with prices and discounts given on aluminum and enameled ware, small oil, cooking stoves, patent medicines, etc.
- Mining machinery, etc.*, No. 22712.—The Bureau is informed that a business man in Russia desires to represent an American manufacturer of mining machinery, etc. Interested manufacturers may communicate with representative in the United States.
- Perforating machine*, No. 22713.—An American consular officer in a foreign colonial possession writes that the secretary of a municipal hospital in his district wishes to purchase a small machine for perforating checks, receipts, and other blank forms. Correspondence in English. Sample showing perforation desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 80458.)
- Sugar-mill machinery*, No. 22714.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that a firm in his district will shortly be in the market for the complete machinery for a modern sugar mill having a capacity of from 200 to 300 tons of cane in 24 hours. Correspondence preferably in Spanish.
- General representation*, No. 22715.—A business man in Spain desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles and other products for which a market in that country may be found. References.
- Salt*, No. 22716.—A firm in Canada informs an American consular officer of its desire to communicate with American exporters of table and other salt.
- Machinery*, No. 22717.—A business man from South America, who is now in the United States, is in the market for several machines, probably 8 or 10, for the manufacture of cut nails. Reference.
- Railway materials*, No. 22718.—A firm in Brazil desires to enter into commercial relations with American exporters of new and second-hand rails (18, 20, 25, and 34 kilos per meter), locomotives, fishplates, and bolts, etc.
- Cedar pencil wood*, No. 22719.—An export firm on the Pacific coast has received inquiries for cedar pencil slats, a sample of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 155.) Samples with lowest possible quotations f. o. b. San Francisco or Seattle, desired. The firm states that if anything similar to sample can be had at a reasonable price it can dispose of considerable quantities.
- Shoes, wearing apparel, etc.*, No. 22720.—A commercial organization in the United States has forwarded to the Bureau the name and address of a business man in Colombia who desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of shoes, hosiery, haberdashery, underwear, and wearing apparel, piece goods, notions and novelties, drugs and pharmaceutical products, leather for the manufacture of shoes, lubricating oils, foodstuffs, and provisions, etc. Agencies are desired. References.

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 245 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 18 1916

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FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTED IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 14.]

From figures recently made public it appears that non-Spanish stock companies operating in this country have at present lying in local industries the equivalent of \$367,020,000. Of this sum \$88,000,000 are in electric power and lighting, \$37,000,000 in railroads and city traction, \$2,500,000 in metallurgical enterprises, and the remainder in various minor lines.

According to nationality the total is divided as follows: Belgium, \$191,950,000; England, \$101,460,000; France, \$68,190,000; Germany, \$4,900,000; and Switzerland, \$520,000.

[A report on stock companies in Spain was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 23, 1916.]

VALENCIA ONION CROP AND EXPORTS.

[Consul John R. Putnam, Valencia, Spain, Sept. 26.]

The 1916-17 onion export season opened for the Valencia consular district on May 15, 1916, and shipments up to September 16 have amounted to 852,860 cases and 584,995 crates, as compared with 661,057 cases and 235,230 crates for the corresponding period of 1915.

The export of onions to the United States began on June 20, 1916, and has totaled, for the less than three months period, 564,835 crates and 20,034 cases as against 231,045 crates and 18,703 cases shipped during the same period of last season. The export of onions from this district to the United States is steadily increasing each year. While it is stated that Valencia case onions have been and are exported to the American market through other countries, direct shipments have only been made since the present European war started.

The shipments to British ports to date this season have amounted to 766,916 cases and 2,185 crates, as compared with 601,498 cases for the same period of last year; 56,635 cases of onions have been

sent to France, as against 3,900; Canada has received 1,875 cases and 17,975 crates, as compared with 828 cases and 4,185 crates during the corresponding period of last season.

This season has witnessed the first shipments of onions to Norway, amounting to 7,400 cases.

Large Crop—Prices.

No accurate statistics can be obtained as to the extent of this year's onion crop, but it is believed to be about double that of 1915. This increased production probably accounts, in part, for the large shipments so far this season which, in the case of crated onions to the United States, have exceeded the total quantity of crated onions sent to all countries during any previous season.

With onions quoted on the local market at prices equal to from 50 to 60 cents per bushel, it costs about 55 cents to put a crate of onions on board ship with all charges paid, and an additional 20 cents to pay the freight to New York. The value at present of a cases of onions, f. o. b. Valencia, is approximately \$1.90, and the cost of freight to England about 50 cents.

So far this year onion growers have received good prices for their crops, and if everything goes well for the remainder of the season it should prove a profitable one for all concerned.

Destination of Onions.

The following table gives the country of destination of onions shipped from this district during the past five complete seasons (a case is equal to approximately 2.3 bushels and a crate to 0.7 bushel):

Destination.	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>
Great Britain.....	2,218,542	2,096,494	2,032,715	1,885,070	1,686,672
Germany.....	33,796	1,000	3,037		
Belgium.....	15,772				
Netherlands.....	7,984				
France.....	100	1,000	195	2,847	25,100
Argentina.....				18,437	35,528
United States.....				40,907	72,218
All other countries.....				4,679	1,516
Total cases.....	2,276,203	2,098,494	2,035,947	1,951,940	1,822,034
	<i>Crates.</i>	<i>Crates.</i>	<i>Crates.</i>	<i>Crates.</i>	<i>Crates.</i>
Great Britain.....	259,209	236,181	260,293	5,818	527,266
United States.....	15,733	34,253	17,064	454,519	4,185
Canada.....				9,529	
Total crates.....	274,939	270,434	277,347	469,866	531,451

ALMERIA PORT MOVEMENTS.

[Consular Agent B. F. Yost, Almeria, Spain, Sept. 9.]

During August, 1916, there entered at the port of Almeria a total of 6,215 tons of merchandise, of which 2,729 tons were coal and the remainder miscellaneous goods. The outgoing shipments for the month reached a total of 23,375 tons, as compared with 14,891 tons in August, 1915. The merchandise consisted of 804 tons of miscellaneous exports, 18,000 tons of iron ore, 225 tons of lead ore, and 4,334 tons of fresh grapes. Of the 62 steamers entered 45 were Spanish, 10 British, 4 Norwegian, 1 Greek, 1 Italian, and 1 Russian. During the corresponding month of the preceding year the number of steamers was 71.

CROW'S NEST COAL FIELDS IN CANADA.

[Consul W. E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Oct. 8.]

The Crow's Nest coal mines are important because of their unusually large area and great productiveness, and on account of the rapidly growing railroad enterprises, and the mining and smelting industries that depend on them for supplies of fuel.

The Crow's Nest coal fields are 350 to 400 miles from the coast in the Rocky Mountains. The summit of the range is the dividing line between the section of the field situated in East Kootenay, British Columbia, and the part in southwest Alberta. The property of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. is on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, while that known as the Blaimore Frank district is in the eastern foothills of the same range.

The coal fields cover more than 200 square miles. Production of coal and coke from these mines, in tons of 2,000 pounds each, during the past 18 years was:

Years.	Coal.	Coke.	Years.	Coal.	Coke.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1898	8,986	561	1908	981,643	262,190
1899	116,200	29,658	1909	899,043	250,255
1900	231,619	73,496	1910	1,209,762	194,458
1901	425,257	125,085	1911	35,496	60,653
1902	441,236	120,777	1912	1,064,791	245,225
1903	661,118	167,739	1913	1,166,378	253,541
1904	742,210	245,118	1914	871,811	223,850
1905	986,765	298,890	1915	892,651	267,893
1906	806,903	212,111			
1907	981,939	231,326	Total	12,847,810	3,250,254

^a During this year there was a strike.

The coal and coke exports to the United States in the past six years were: 1910, coal \$2,296,915, coke \$43,755; 1911, coal \$677,813, coke \$8,846; 1912, coal \$1,629,205, coke \$251,453; 1913, coal \$1,736,211, coke \$257,378; 1914, coal \$1,282,882, coke \$276,694; 1915, coal \$961,930, coke \$118,694.

Besides the Crow's Nest Pass, there are in the Fernie consular district the following coal mines: Corbin Coal & Coke Co., Corbin; Hosmer collieries, Hosmer; Hillcrest collieries, Hillcrest; West Canadian collieries, Blairmore; McGillivray Creek Coal Co., Coleman; Franco-Canadian collieries, Frank.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following publications were received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended October 14:

Electric Units and Standards (Standards Bureau Circular 60).—Historical account of the various systems of electrical measurements with extracts from the laws of various countries defining the legal units. Price, 15 cents.

Business Practice and Accounts for Cooperative Stores (Agriculture Department Bulletin 381).—Outlines proper systems of accounts in the conduct of retail and general merchandise stores. Price, 10 cents.

Mortality Statistics, 1914 (Census Bureau 1916).—Fifteenth compilation, based on records of registration area, which in 1914 had an estimated population of about 70,000,000, showing a death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population, the lowest ever recorded in this area. Price, \$1.

Directions for Restoring the Apparently Drowned (U. S. Coast Guard).—Contains short rules which should be followed in saving drowning persons by swimming to their relief, and directions for treatment of frostbites, as practiced in the United States Coast Guard. Price, 5 cents.

SEEKING STANDARD TEST FOR GASOLINE.

A statement has been issued by the United States Bureau of Standards with the object of removing any existing impression that the bureau would formulate a test which might be applied by any purchasers to detect at once an inferior product in the gasoline market. "No such simple test is known in the present state of the science of petroleum technology," the bureau states. "In the early days of the petroleum industry, when all our gasolines, kerosenes, fuel oils, and lubricating oils were derived from one source, viz, Pennsylvania crude petroleum, a simple measurement of the specific gravity, or what amounts to the same thing, the Baumé number, by means of a hydrometer, served as a fairly reliable indication of the qualities of these products. To-day, however, the specific gravity test is practically worthless as a check on the suitability of a gasoline, for example, for a given motor equipment." In giving the reason for this change and discussing present conditions the bureau states:

Different Kinds of Petroleum and Methods of Manufacture.

Many new oil fields that have been opened up in recent years yield petroleum of very different physical and chemical properties and new methods of manufacture have been introduced that yield products having very different properties in no way related to the specific gravities. The problem is an extremely complicated one, and presupposes a definition of gasoline. It is highly probable that the specification or definition of standard gasoline and the tests that will be necessary to determine whether the gasoline complies with the specifications will be quite complicated and will require the services of a trained chemist to make them. It seems most probable that the definition of gasoline will have to be based on the percentage that distills over between specified temperatures, when the distillation is carried out under specified conditions. This distillation test, speaking in non-technical terms, is a measure of the freedom with which the gasoline will vaporize. The gasoline must not vaporize too freely for two reasons—one that it would not be safe, and, secondly, its loss in storage by evaporation would be too great. Hence, the specification may have to contain limitations of the percentage distilling over below a certain temperature, coupled, perhaps, with a proviso that certain percentages shall distil over below other fixed temperatures, in order that requisite amounts of low-boiling constituents shall be present to insure easy starting of an engine. Likewise the specification must contain a provision that all must distil over below a certain maximum temperature in order to exclude from the gasoline the heavier petroleum distillates, such as kerosene.

Complicated as such a specification as has been briefly outlined may seem to the layman, it is not at all improbable that other tests must be devised to limit the percentage of so-called aromatic and unsaturated hydrocarbons that may be permitted in a good motor gasoline. The question still remains whether or not it may be necessary to define two or more grades of motor gasoline.

Enough has been said to show that no simple tests can be used to fix the composition of such complex mixtures of hydrocarbons as are represented by gasolines. The popular opinion that specific gravity (or degrees Baumé) will suffice as a test for gasoline is unfortunately erroneous. For example, a gasoline of 70° Baumé from some oil fields is no more volatile than a gasoline of 65° Baumé from other oil fields. Another point about which there is often a misunderstanding is the relative efficiency of high and low density gasolines. It is the common opinion of gasoline users that gasoline of low specific gravity (or high Baumé reading) is more efficient in that they can get more miles out of a gallon. This is not true if the motor equipment is adapted to the fuel used.

Must Proceed with Greatest Caution.

The message which it is particularly desired to convey is that the public should not expect hasty action. It is extremely important that we proceed with the greatest caution and in the light of the fullest technical information. There is only one way, or at most a very few ways, of doing the right thing, while

there is an infinite number of ways of doing the wrong thing. A mistake of any kind, such as a specification that is unnecessarily restricted and which might unduly limit competition, will disturb economic and manufacturing conditions, and might only result in imposing greater burdens on the consuming public.

There are two aspects to the question under consideration, one local, the other national. There is no doubt that the advantages that would result from a satisfactory standardization of gasoline by the National Government are many. Not the least of these would be its influence on State and municipal legislation relating to this question, and its effect in making such legislation more nearly uniform throughout the country. Legislative bodies are beginning to take up this question, and much of this legislation is certain to be ill advised, although enacted with the best intentions, because it can not in the nature of things receive the careful consideration of technical experts that is required for the satisfactory solution of questions of this kind. It will readily be seen that the effect of indiscriminate legislation might produce conditions nothing short of chaotic.

Suitable Inspection Service Needed.

The question that very naturally arises at this point is—with such a complicated specification for gasoline, for which the user can not make the necessary tests—how it will be possible to protect his interests and to assure himself that he is actually getting standard gasoline. The answer is, he can not possibly do so; the Government—National, State, or municipal—must protect him by a suitable inspection service, just as it protects him in matters relating to weights and measures, pure foods, etc. National legislation relating to interstate commerce, making it unlawful to sell a product under the name of "gasoline" that does not come within the specifications, with a suitable inspection service, would be an important contributing factor in safeguarding the consumer's interests. Other products, which might be just as good motor fuels for motor and carbureter equipments adapted to them, could not then be sold in interstate commerce under the name of "gasoline," but would have to be called motor fuels or by some other name which would distinguish them from the standard "gasoline." To protect the interests of the consumer in intrastate commerce it would be necessary for States and municipalities to adopt similar legislation and to increase their inspection service to provide for this new work, just as they have provided for weights and measures and pure-food regulations in the past.

The Bureau of Mines has done a great deal of work on gasolines derived from different oil fields and by different methods of manufacture. Any experimental work incident to the use of gasoline as a fuel belongs primarily to that bureau. The Bureau of Standards, on the other hand, is primarily interested in questions relating to its standardization. That bureau is accordingly entering into cooperation with the Bureau of Mines, with a view to arriving at a satisfactory answer to the question as to what recommendations are possible at this time, and what should be done. Before any final decisions are reached, all interested parties will be given a hearing.

CANADA EXPORTS FOXES TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Oct. 10.]

In the vicinity of Moncton are several fox farms or ranches where thoroughbred and crossbred foxes are reared for their skins, which are growing in popularity as articles of winter wearing apparel. Within a few weeks several pairs of live foxes have been sold from this consular district to buyers in the United States at prices, in some instances, as high as \$1,000 per pair. During the current week five pairs of silver-black foxes were shipped to a customer in Maine who it is reported, is about to inaugurate fox farming in the vicinity of Portland. These were all of the more valuable varieties. Another recent shipment was of 15 crossbreds averaging in value about \$35 each and one silver fox at approximately \$200. These were forwarded to a purchaser in Minnesota. One lot of four high-priced black foxes was sent during September to be exhibited at a State fair held annually in a central New York city.

BARCELONA'S IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Aug. 29.]

The quantity of raw cotton imported at Barcelona during the campaign year 1915-16 fell 98,744 bales short of the amount received at this port in 1914-15, but was 5,722 bales greater than in the pre-war season of 1913-14. Difficulties encountered in ocean transportation greatly influenced the local market.

During 1915-16 the imports from the United States declined by 111,711 bales compared with the preceding campaign year, although still in excess of the season before the war by 38,490 bales. Egyptian cotton showed an increase over the amount imported usually, and Indian cotton was received in larger quantity than during 1914-15. American cotton formed 79.4 per cent of the year's total importation; Egyptian, 5.5 per cent; and Indian, 15 per cent.

Chief Supplying Countries.

The countries of origin and number of bales imported at Barcelona during the past four seasons were:

Countries.	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
United States	289,611	276,365	426,566	314,555
Egypt	20,013	20,001	19,493	21,962
India	35,166	73,471	46,891	59,712
Levant	19,625	13,377	912	.....
Other	2,058	7,849	1,664	359
Total	366,473	391,066	495,532	396,739

The Trade in American Fiber.

Of the American cotton entered at the port of Barcelona during the campaign year of 1915-16 Galveston supplied 58.6 per cent, Savannah 17.3 per cent, and New Orleans 18.8 per cent. The number of bales furnished by these and other leading cotton ports of the United States during each of the last four seasons is shown below:

Ports.	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Galveston	171,816	149,400	263,438	184,593
Savannah	47,212	55,945	75,950	54,455
New Orleans	48,344	36,741	53,592	59,056
Charleston	4,200	6,900	14,500	8,650
New York	5,862	17,303	6,197	4,472
Wilmington .....	.....	6,356	600	.....
Pensacola	1,000	50	65	.....
Indirect	11,177	3,470	12,224	3,329
Total	289,611	276,365	426,566	314,555

SERICULTURE IN ITALY.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Sept. 26.]

The yield of cocoons in Italy for 1916, according to the estimate of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, is 36,630 metric tons (1 metric ton=2,204.6 pounds). This is 105.9 per cent of the 1915 yield of 34,600 metric tons, and 90.8 per cent of the average of the five years 1909-1913, which is given as 40,357 metric tons.

IMPORT TRADE OF NEW ZEALAND BY COUNTRIES.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

There was a considerable change in the value of the imports into New Zealand during 1915 according to the country of origin. The United Kingdom supplied goods of its own production to the value of \$50,574,649 compared with \$64,364,928 for 1913. The imports of American goods increased in value from \$10,258,533 for 1913 to \$13,930,536 for 1915.

The following table gives the imports by classes into New Zealand from the United Kingdom and the United States, and the totals from the United Kingdom and possessions and the total from the balance of the world for the years 1913 and 1915, since the comparison with 1914 would not give a fair showing, because of the abnormal conditions during a portion of that year:

Articles.	1913				1915			
	United Kingdom.	United States.	Total British.	Total foreign.	United Kingdom.	United States.	Total British.	Total foreign.
Arms, explosives, etc.	\$865,948	\$64,389	\$87,374	\$108,893	\$604,127	\$125,711	\$709,502	\$133,084
Bags and sacks.	43,059	24	1,136 712	1,071	9,178	1,932	1,235,006	1,932
Beer, spirits, wine.	2,612,483	54,367	2,258,353	336,042	1,757,498	18,454	2,151,407	491,663
Bicycles and materials.	460,254	10,249	581,552	69,803	246,440	18,775	467,475	59,415
Boots and shoes.	1,841,819	59,427	1,895,108	109,671	1,710,745	153,460	1,823,857	171,345
Canvas.	457,894	24,318	469,710	31,556	275,926	66,141	282,388	66,759
Carpeting.	467,091	457	476,362	15,076	350,665	652	372,754	8,424
China and earthenware.	727,863	3,981	754,896	188,226	481,326	5,339	499,658	31,447
Coal.			2,269,181		243		1,676,485	
Drapery, textiles, haberdashery.	10,895,281	163,037	11,192,035	503,031	9,555,786	542,167	9,977,527	2,042,903
Drugs and chemicals.	1,159,882	157,246	1,565,465	588,516	1,636,030	474,888	2,060,987	1,248,827
Fancy goods and toys.	882,905	56,704	1,037,796	392,980	621,160	192,436	655,912	379,874
Floor and oilcloth.	699,603	1,499	699,647	6,833	391,782	2,779	391,792	2,779
Fruits: Fresh and dried.	52,977	485,949	829,763	737,742	2,608	882,910	707,662	1,291,700
Hardware and ironmongery.	1,730,359	311,062	1,828,295	469,359	1,179,036	270,281	1,207,661	299,757
Hosiery.	1,003,784	4,915	1,005,886	15,329	923,681	78,166	925,503	103,007
Glass and glassware.	530,307	50,316	597,051	624,323	386,945	247,194	504,247	380,838
Iron: Pig, wrought, wire, and galvanized.	6,594,180	390,712	6,875,381	476,348	4,698,625	461,967	5,396,812	475,374
Leather and manufactures.	670,273	130,378	908,006	196,032	358,695	311,928	735,839	327,316
Lumber.	22,036	451,417	1,973,872	483,375	7,212	204,607	1,215,282	272,334
Machinery.	3,300,149	779,492	3,675,643	1,382,144	2,560,538	1,227,828	2,736,452	1,611,193
Manures.	492,621	959	1,214,878	621,846	303,504	16,979	1,623,674	695,626
Motors, cycles, etc.	2,478,084	1,120,614	3,310,617	1,661,063	1,612,671	1,842,948	2,702,387	2,344,558
Musical instruments and materials.	472,051	28,527	488,144	310,069	491,643	67,114	502,593	100,975
Nails.	141,210	129,347	144,973	138,608	122,524	103,175	191,745	109,145
Oils.	546,133	1,566,541	737,669	2,036,538	362,437	2,333,540	581,357	3,281,004
Paper.	1,110,681	24,683	1,608,601	168,473	868,889	75,148	1,855,556	197,700
Printed books.	831,159	48,514	1,154,903	55,240	935,692	76,010	1,056,279	77,898
Railway and tramway plant.	1,252,880	25,500	1,278,050	33,043	1,200,974	169,675	1,234,154	170,003
Seeds.	348,432	85,417	438,569	283,021	1,136,162	57,561	1,235,098	357,658
Sewing and knitting machines.	101,038	120,840	119,083	148,433	77,786	147,990	77,893	150,896
Silks.	175,851	1,844	198,271	276,656	68,511	3,601	82,585	899,738
Stationery.	829,344	91,407	927,336	203,364	648,588	153,679	722,091	244,347
Sugar.	1,606	43,317	3,906,412	47,755	2,686	50,271	5,150,947	51,803
Tea.	944		1,438,484	6,541	774		2,204,651	10,774
Tobacco.	1,190,409	419,594	1,789,543	479,019	1,377,969	405,691	2,138,807	459,300
Tools and implements.	877,732	717,054	1,189,373	746,745	523,927	526,473	707,764	538,536
Wearing apparel, hats, caps.	6,555,522	207,211	7,126,445	438,053	5,026,574	138,778	5,123,763	584,632
Woolpacks.	886		362,306	3,986			402,917	19
All other articles.	12,010,198	2,116,705	15,725,653	4,745,995	8,051,105	2,474,278	12,444,538	5,455,004
Total, not including specie.	64,364,928	10,258,533	86,237,198	19,140,202	50,574,649	13,930,536	75,403,011	25,132,650

AMERICANS BUILD LARGEST DAM IN EUROPE.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Aug. 29.]

The largest dam in Europe, just completed in the Barcelona consular district, is the result of the work of American engineers and experts. It is built across the chasm through which the Noguera Pallaresa River flowed, and is situated near the old fortified town of Talarn. Abutting on almost perpendicular cliffs, the dam is constructed of concrete and measures 330 feet in height and 700 feet in length. The thickness is 230 feet at the base, gradually decreasing to 14 feet at the top.

The valley above the dam was bought from the various landholders at a cost of nearly \$1,000,000, and now filled with water forms an artificial lake $15\frac{1}{4}$ miles long and $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles wide. The floodgates are so carefully balanced that they open automatically under the pressure of a rise of 1 inch of water. The natural formation of the rock near the dam has been utilized to provide a spillway with a capacity of 70,000 cubic feet of water a second.

To Produce Power and Aid in Irrigation.

The dam has a twofold object in the production of electric power and use in irrigation. The water that now passes through the power house yields an electric current of 20,000 horsepower. Later it will be increased to 40,000 horsepower. The water is carried by a system of canals into an arid district, where it irrigates a surface of nearly 100 square miles.

The cement used in the construction of the dam was made on the spot from limestone and marl found within a short distance and transported by a temporary railroad. The cement-making machinery, stone crushers, mixers, etc., were brought from the United States, as well as considerable quantities of the other machinery and parts employed in building.

An obstacle that had to be overcome in this construction work was the lack of communication. This necessitated the running of a telephone line from Barcelona to the dam and the building of a road more than 11 miles long, part of which was cut through a canyon at heavy expense. Over this road two traction engines hauled the building material on platform cars of American manufacture.

ACCLIMATIZATION WORK BY BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries is arranging for the shipment of a consignment of 16,000,000 humpback salmon eggs from Alaska. It is intended to retain 8,000,000 of these eggs to be developed at the Puget Sound stations for the purpose of aiding in the establishment of an annual run of that species in Washington waters. The remainder of the consignment will be forwarded to the New England stations in Maine, with the view of continuing the plants of this species in the streams of that State.

Plans are also being perfected for the transfer of a carload of eastern lobsters from Maine to Washington, in furtherance of the attempt inaugurated several years ago to bring about the acclimatization of this crustacean in Pacific coast waters.

STREET RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN GERMANY.

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Aix la Chapelle, Sept. 28.]

The Association of Administrations of German Street and Inter-urban Lines has issued its report on accidents that occurred in 1915. (Statistics from the report for 1914 were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 4, 1915.)

The average distribution of accidents for the period from 1902 to 1914 was 42 per cent to passengers, 58 per cent to nonpassengers; in 1915 the figures were 39.62 per cent and 60.38 per cent, respectively. The principal causes of accidents to passengers were carelessness in boarding and leaving cars; to nonpassengers, carelessness in crossing or walking along car tracks. Eighty-six per cent of all fatal and serious accidents in 1915 were the fault of the persons injured.

The number of children injured through "stealing rides" on the steps of the left side of the platforms, which are generally closed by a door, is increasing; 21 children were killed or seriously hurt in this way during the year. About one-half of the fatally injured pedestrians were children. For every 750,000 car-kilometers (466,000 care-miles) operated 1 child was killed; in Aix la Chapelle, 1 child for every 1,333,000 car-kilometers (828,300 car-miles).

Aix la Chapelle's Good Record.

The blame for collisions with vehicles rested in 57.7 per cent of the cases with the drivers of the vehicles, in 9.6 per cent with the motor-men, in 15.8 per cent with both; in 14.3 per cent the accidents were due to mischance. One collision occurred for every 29,315 car-kilometers (18,215 car-miles) operated for the whole of Germany; in Aix la Chapelle, one for every 100,000 car-kilometers (62,100 car-miles). Collisions between two electric cars occurred one for every 1,000,000 car-kilometers (621,400 car-miles); in Aix la Chapelle one for every 2,600,000 car-kilometers (1,615,600 car-miles).

The number of collisions between two cars, of derailments, and of accidents to persons while leaving cars is somewhat above the average for the last 15 years. The number of collisions with vehicles other than truck wagons is below the average.

The statistics show that in every kind of accident the figures for Aix la Chapelle were below the average for the whole of Germany, although the hilly character of the territory and some of the ancient narrow streets traversed produce unfavorable conditions. During 1915 there were operated 8,952,000 car-kilometers (5,562,500 car-miles).

Proposed Russian Railroad.

According to the Statist (London) for September 30, a Russian railroad is projected to extend from Kem on the White Sea southeast to connect through Kotlas and Perm with the Siberian railway system. The total distance from Perm to Kola, the Arctic terminus of the new Murman Railroad, would be about 150 miles shorter by the projected route than by the present route via Petrograd. The new railroad is expected to facilitate the marketing of western Siberian products in foreign countries through the port of Kola.

JAPANESE ESTABLISH NEW ENTERPRISES.

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Aug. 31.]

The Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce, according to the Japan Times, states that during the first seven months of the present year 760 new companies were initiated with a combined capital of 23,541,276 yen (\$11,735,326). In comparison with the corresponding period last year this figure shows a gain of 29 companies with a combined capital of 13,203,796 yen (\$6,582,092).

Chemical industries have been most favored by capitalists, and in the number of companies there is a gain of 74. Ceramic industries also have received the attention of investors, on account of their increasing remuneration, and there is a gain of 26 in the number of these companies. Tissue industries have increased by 18, and machine tool manufacturing by 15. The changes in the principal industries have been:

Industries.	New concerns promoted.	Increase.	Decrease.	Industries.	New concerns promoted.	Increase.	Decrease.
Brewing	50	.....	2	Shipbuilding and rolling stock ..	2	.....	3
Comestibles	81	.....	70	Machine-tool making	61	15	.....
Tissue	115	18	.....	Gas and electricity	32	.....	2
Chemical	107	74	.....	Others	225	.....	37
Ceramic	42	26	.....			
Metal	45	10	.....			

Fishing Industry in Japanese Colonies.

Endeavors on the part of the colonial authorities to develop the fishing industry in the various colonies are producing favorable effects on all sides, according to a Government report quoted by the Japan Times.

In chosen waters, Korean fishermen are encouraged by the Government in various ways, and their operations are increasing in importance. At present the annual catch amounts to a total value of 5,600,000 yen (\$2,791,600), and 125,000 fishermen, with 15,000 boats, are registered. Japanese fishermen are also encouraged to operate in chosen waters by the prefectural authorities in Kyushu and Shikoku. Their boats now in those waters number more than 5,000, with a combined crew of 20,000 men, their catches being valued at 4,700,000 yen (\$2,342,950) a year. These Japanese fishermen send their catches to Japan without curing.

Karafuto has a complete fishery system under the supervision of the local authorities. The registered or licensed fishing boats number 3,000, or slightly upward, manned by 17,000 men. Their annual catches are worth 4,500,000 yen (\$2,243,250).

In Taiwan gasoline boats are in favor, and their operations now fetch 250,000 yen (\$124,625). Natives have 15,000 boats of their own, manned by 113,000 men, but their catches are worth only 1,500,000 yen (\$747,750) a year.

The Kwangtung Government General has established a fishery experimental station at Port Arthur for the purpose of assisting Japanese fishery enterprises in those waters, but their total catches are said not to exceed 250,000 yen (\$124,625) in value. The registered fishing boats are 200, manned by 1,500 men.

Increased Exports of Stationery.

Among the various Japanese goods which have found new markets abroad is stationery. The following table from the Japan Chronicle shows the exports of stationery in the last half year, compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding two years:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1914.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
Pencils.....	\$15,285	\$16,583	\$206,444
Ink.....	32,643	38,160	81,030
Account and note book.....	27,344	27,491	72,953
Envelopes.....	40,671	12,443	13,897

It will be seen that the exports of pencils in the last half year show a very large increase over those of the corresponding period last year; ink has more than doubled, and the exports of books are about three times the previous figure.

COTTON-GROWING EXPERIMENTS IN GREECE.

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

The British consul at Piræus writes that a British company carried out some interesting experiments in the growing of varieties of American cotton in Greece during 1915. The principal object of these experiments, for which seed was imported direct from the United States, was to find a quality of cotton that would mature early to escape damage by autumn frosts and would be better in quality and yield than the cotton already grown locally.

As a result of experiments on alluvial soils a yield of 1,386 pounds of seed (i. e., unginned) cotton per acre was obtained from one variety of American seed. The native variety of seed on the same soil yielded only 684 pounds per acre. On ash beds, however—a soil consisting of partially burnt peat overlying a subsoil of lime clay—a second new American variety yielded only 532 pounds per acre, whereas an American variety that has been grown in Greece for a number of years yielded 922 pounds per acre. Experiments with the same varieties are being continued.

COTTON EXPORTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending October 14, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	13,599	Philadelphia.....	.....	San Francisco.....	960
Massachusetts.....	437	South Carolina.....	.....	Washington.....	5,050
Maryland.....	2,145	Virginia.....	.....	
New York.....	22,591	Galveston.....	75,757	Total.....	172,104
North Carolina.....	.....	New Orleans.....	51,535		

The exports of 172,104 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 1,302,470 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 146,661 bales for the week and 958,145 bales in the cotton year.

AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES AND FREIGHT CARS IN RUSSIA.

[Consul John A. Ray, Odessa, Sept. 12.]

A Kharkof newspaper writes, under date of August 30, 1916, that Prof. Lomonosof, a member of the engineering board of the Russian Ministry of Ways of Communication, has established a new European record for the most heavily loaded train. With the American locomotive of the decapod type he brought over the Nikolaief division of the Southern Railway a train with a load of 4,424 tons. The length of the train was 2,800 feet. The signaling was done with flags, as is the custom in the United States.

The trip was experimental. A Russian engine was tried out against the American engine, and the superiority of the latter was clearly established.

According to an article in an Odessa paper, under date of September 5, 1916, a number of American freight cars are being used on the Ekaterinskaya Railway in the Donetz coal region. They are preferred to Russian cars on account of their great capacity. It is stated, however, that because the American cars have their doors at the side they are unsuitable for hauling wood. The railway authorities are contemplating remodeling some of the cars and placing the doors at the ends.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ITEMS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 9.]

Sydney Harbor is situated on Port Jackson, which is landlocked and has great natural shipping facilities. The harbor has a shore line of 200 miles. The water, which is deep right up to the shores, will float the largest ocean-going vessels. The depth at the entrance is 80 feet and the eastern channel has a depth of 40 feet, which can easily be deepened to 60 feet. The rise and fall of tide is from 3 to 6 feet. The wharves are 51,000 feet in length and fitted with the most modern appliances for the quick dispatch of vessels. The depth of water at the wharves ranges from 30 to 60 feet. There are four graving docks, of which one, the Woolwich graving dock, is the largest in the southern hemisphere. Another new one alongside of this, 1,000 feet in length, is shortly to be commenced. There are also five floating docks and five large slips.

Underlying Sydney is a coal seam which extends 100 miles north and the same distance in a westerly and southerly direction. The seam varies from 4 to 33 feet, and the depth runs from the surface outcrop to 2,000 feet deep. The estimated quantity available is 1,000,000,000 tons.

Practically all the trade of New South Wales, both import and export, is centered in Sydney. It is the terminal port for the British mail and the majority of the cargo steamers from the United Kingdom. It is also the terminal port for the cargo service from Montreal and St. John. Sydney is the principal distributing center in the Commonwealth and the point from which transshipments from the Pacific coast of North America are made to other Australian ports.

Japanese Trade Commissioners—Industrial Statistics—Market for Fruit.

Three Japanese trade commissioners recently visited Sydney studying the openings for Japanese trade in New South Wales.

Commissioner Kamiya, manager of the Osaka Shoshan Kaisha, stated that if circumstances warranted it after the war his company would inaugurate a regular cargo service between Japan and Australian ports.

According to the annual report on the administration of the Shops and Factories Act, which was recently published, there are 7,425 factories in New South Wales, employing 99,923 hands. In the metropolitan area there are 4,758 registered factories, employing 81,329 hands. The comparatively small amount of child labor employed is held to be a most satisfactory feature of the report.

New South Wales, especially in the metropolitan area of Sydney, carrying a population estimated at 750,000, offers the best Australian market to growers of seasonable products, such as apples or other fresh fruits or potatoes. Shipments of perishable goods sold in Sydney avoid the extra expense and risk attendant upon transshipments made to more distant markets. To realize the best markets, apples should arrive as early as possible, owing to the fact that about the 1st of December early local fruits come upon the market in considerable quantities.

SCHOOL FOR HOTEL EMPLOYEES AT HAVRE.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, France, Sept. 27.]

The French Ministry of Commerce, with the cooperation of the municipalities of Havre and Trouville, has made provision for the establishment of a school for the practical education of hotel managers and employees. This school will be opened in the near future in Havre, where it will be established in one of the better-class hotels. Summer courses will be given in connection with the school in a hotel of the first rank in Trouville. The students, who attend this school, will be admitted as apprentices into the two hotels of Havre and Trouville above referred to.

The course of study will cover one, two, or three years, according to the age and previous knowledge of the students. In order to be admitted to the first year's course the candidate must be at least 13 years of age and possess a certificate of primary studies. Students who come from outside of Havre will be placed in families or boarding houses under the direction of the management of the school.

Students are now being registered at the Town Hall of Havre by the Municipal Bureau of Public Instruction.

NEW ROYAL PALACE TO BE ERECTED IN SEVILLE.

[Consul Wilber T. Gracey, Seville, Spain.]

The *Revista Comercial* (journal of the Chamber of Commerce of Seville) in a recent number states that the King of Spain has under consideration plans for the erection of a royal palace at Seville, where the Court may sojourn for several months of each year. The new plans contemplate the building of a large, modern palace in the *Huerta del Ritiro*, which adjoins the older *Alcazar Gardens*. These *Huertas* (gardens) have been laid out in recent years with flower beds and otherwise greatly improved, and are considered a suitable site for a royal residence, as they face on the *Paseo de Catalina de Rivera* and the *Prado de San Sebastian*.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Do.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.

DISTRICT OFFICE AIDS FOREIGN TRADE.

As a result of business connections with foreign firms, secured through the district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in St. Louis, a wholesale dry goods house in that city writes that it recently received an order from South Africa amounting to \$3,000, another from Mexico amounting to \$2,000, and that orders aggregating some \$4,000 have been received from Venezuela and other South American countries.

Copenhagen's New Loan.

Consul General E. D. Winslow reports under date of September 23 that the city of Copenhagen, Denmark, entered the local money market for a new loan of \$8,000,000. The interest rate was 5 per cent and the loan was to be for a period of 40 years. The loan was many times oversubscribed.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. By. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern By. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Materials and machinery, No. 3600.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., until October 30, 1916, for inspection of materials and machinery for the Reclamation Service for a period of three years. Further information may be obtained at the above-named office.

Coast-guard station, No. 3700.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Coast Guard, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 4, 1916, for constructing a coast-guard station and accessories on the Siuslaw River, Oreg. Specifications and drawings may be obtained on application to the Superintendent, Thirteenth District, Coast Guard, San Francisco, Cal., or to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3701.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1916, for the construction of the post office at East Orange, N. J. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at East Orange, N. J., or at the above-named office.

Files, tools, etc., No. 3702.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until October 31, 1916, for furnishing files, knives, pliers, rules, scissors, screw drivers, tweezers, tacks, fuses, rings, etc. Specification may be obtained from the above-named office. (Proposal No. 871.)

Steam windlass, No. 3703.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Boston, Mass., until October 31, 1916, for furnishing and delivering one steam windlass and two spring stoppers for *Light Vessel 99*. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Floor construction, No. 3704.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 4, 1916, for reinforcing, with steel beams, the floors of the Hydrographic Office in the Navy Annex. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Post-office construction, No. 3705.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Yoakum, Tex. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Yoakum, Tex., or at the above-named office.

Building construction, No. 3706.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1916, for a steel-frame building, with corrugated steel siding and roofing, for the storage of torpedoes, at the naval coal depot, Melville, R. I. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station, Narragansett Bay, Newport, R. I.

Post-office construction, No. 3707.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 6, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Twin Falls, Idaho. Drawings and specifications may be obtained after October 25, 1916, from the custodian of the site at Twin Falls, Idaho, or at the above-named office.

Sea-wall construction, No. 3708.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 4, 1916, for a sea wall at the naval torpedo station, Newport, R. I. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station, Narragansett Bay, Newport, R. I.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Stationery supplies, etc., No. 22721.—The Bureau is advised that an export house on the Pacific coast has inquiries from Russia for pencils, penholders, typewriter ribbons, writing paper, rubber erasers, pens, moist water colors and oil paints, carbon paper, and pocket knives, etc. References.

Tin boxes, No. 22722.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom reports that a firm of manufacturing chemists in his district is in the market for 500,000 tin boxes for vaseline, samples of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 80926.) Reference.

Rice, No. 22723.—A merchant in the West Indies asks the Bureau to place him in touch with exporters in the United States of rice.

Parquet and sandpaper, No. 22724.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a firm in his district is in the market for parquet and sandpaper. Samples desired. Reference. Correspondence in Portuguese, French, or Spanish.

Machinery, No. 22725.—A manufacturing company in the United States writes the Bureau that a firm in Colombia is in the market for machinery for the manufacture of nails from 1 to 5 inches.

Boots and shoes, No. 22726.—A Norwegian importer informs an American consular officer that he desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of boots and shoes. Prices f. o. b. New York. Correspondence in English. Reference.

Paper and wearing apparel, etc., No. 22727.—A business man in Australia writes the Bureau that he would like to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of gloves, handkerchiefs, hosiery and underwear for women and children, and writing and wrapping paper.

Lubricants and greases, No. 22728.—An American consular officer in Spain reports that a firm of commission agents in his district desires to import lubricants and greases from the United States. Correspondence in English. References.

Drugs, No. 22729.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in Peru writes that information and quotations on prescription drugs of all kinds are desired by a physician in that country. Correspondence in Spanish.

Elastic web, No. 22730.—A commercial agent of the Bureau reports that an export firm on the Pacific coast has received inquiries from the Far East for elastic web used in suspenders and garters. Communication with American manufacturers of that article is desired. Reference.

Copra, etc., No. 22731.—A firm in Central America asks the Bureau to furnish it with the names of copra buyers in the United States. Quotations are also desired on coconuts and copra.

Machinery, No. 22732.—A company in the United States transmits the name of a firm in the Argentine Republic which desires to get in touch with manufacturers of machinery for the manufacture of chemical products and derivatives.

Scales, No. 22733.—The American representative of a business house in France desires catalogues and prices from manufacturers of scales. A complete line of scales is desired, from those used by apothecaries and storekeepers to scales used in mining and on railroads. Metric system of measurement. Reference.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 246 Washington, D. C., Thursday, October 19 1916

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PROPOSED PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS IN RUSSIA.

[Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 5.]

The issuance of a decree prohibiting temporarily the importation of the following articles is contemplated by the Russian Government, the prohibition to become effective October 20 (Nov. 2), 1916: Fresh vegetables and fruits (except lemons); preserved foods; mustard and sauces, pickles, etc.; tobacco, cigars and cigarettes; biscuits; jams; confectionery; canned fruits and berries; hops; spirits, beer, wines, and liquors; mineral waters (other than medicinal waters); cheese; fish; feathers and down; patent leather; certain fur skins; leather gloves and small articles of leather, including sporting goods; certain articles of wood and basket ware; precious stones; certain building stones; certain kinds of pottery and glassware; toilet soap; manufactures of gold, silver, and platinum; certain manufactures of copper and alloys of copper, cutlery articles with expensive mountings; binoculars; musical instruments; articles of cardboard; cotton velvet and plush; fabrics of silk and half silk; certain felt goods; carpets; certain knit goods and trimmings; tulle; lace and manufactures of lace; embroideries and embroidered fabrics; clothing and underwear; women's hats; fur caps; umbrellas and parasols; toys; expensive fancy and toilet articles in general.

[Additional information concerning Russian import prohibitions will be published in COMMERCE REPORTS as soon as received.]

INSPECTION OF PHILIPPINE HEMP.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands, dated October 17, advising that during the month of September Philippine government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 95,236 bales abaca and 8,720 bales maguey, as follows: Abaca, A, 500; B, 770; C, 1,698; D, 2,942; E, 6,285; S-1, 1,117; S-2, 2,281; S-3, 972; F, 10,968; G, 3,492; H, 2,025; I, 10,331; J, 16,099; K, 5,591; L, 15,444; M, 4,941; DL, 5,593; DM, 2,002; strings, etc., 2,185. Maguey, 1-660; 2-4,770; 3-2,658; D, 632.

BRAZILIAN COFFEE SITUATION.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 25.]

From all present appearances Brazil's coffee crop for this year (1916-17) will not reach the expected figure. In 1915-16 the yield was 11,744,500 bags—a total exceeded only in 1906-7, when 15,392,200 bags were produced. While for some months it was held that the crop of this year would be a notable one and would amount to over 10,000,000 bags, it is now generally conceded that it will not reach the 9,000,000 mark.

As late as June favorable weather had prevailed; the coffee trees of the State of São Paulo were in fine condition, and everything pointed to an unusually good flowering in August; but some light frost was felt in the highland districts in July, and the rains ceased, so that the August flowering proved unusually weak. Again in early September there was a slight frost. The planters in the southern States of Brazil are confident, however, that their improved methods of culture are steadily increasing the average crop of each succeeding year, although bad conditions may sometimes diminish the individual total of one particular year.

Prices and Stocks.

Prices appear to have been advancing steadily under the favorable predictions that were made some months ago. A singular condition is reported of prices abroad having advanced but not on a par with the advances in the State of São Paulo, so that transactions are rendered difficult. It is said that many growers in the south are holding their crop until the consumers will be forced to buy at the planters' price, and that price may go considerably higher if the droughts continue.

The stock in Santos, said to be a little over 2,000,000 bags, is not counted large for this season of the year. It is said that 25 per cent or less of this stock is what is known as "good roasting coffee," which is a very unusual situation.

Freight Rates an Important Factor.

Coffee freights to the United States stood in January of this year at 60 cents plus 5 per cent per bag. They gradually increased to \$2.20 plus 5 per cent, but subsequently dropped to \$1 plus 5 per cent in June and July. This was followed by an upward movement, which surprised many and which is attributed to the shortage of the grain crop in the United States and consequent demand for bottoms on the Argentine route. Freights in early September were \$1.65 to \$1.80 plus 5 per cent per bag, and on one line of steamers \$2.

The question of ocean transport charges is one which the Santos exporter looks upon with considerable dismay. Space has to be engaged sometimes a month or two ahead, with all the attendant risks of a drop in the freight market or a fluctuation in the coffee market itself. A great many of the smaller dealers who are afraid of making preengagements sell their coffee cheap to stronger firms, in order to avoid this feature of the situation. All this affects the market adversely.

It is noted in Santos that a large number of the buyers in the United States are using dollar credits nowadays in lieu of the former sterling.

PROJECTED ARGENTINE MERCANTILE MARINE.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 18.]

On September 9 a project for the creation of an Argentine mercantile marine was presented by the President of the Republic to Congress. The Minister of Marine is understood to have been working upon this subject for some time past. As it is one that has given rise to considerable newspaper discussion here recently a free translation of the Argentine Naval Reserve bill, as published in to-day's Times of Argentina, is quoted below:

For the creation of a reserve mercantile marine, formed by those seagoing vessels of the national registration, of more than 4,000 tons displacement, which fill the following requirements:

(a) To be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the Ministry of Marine. Those already built will be inspected by that Ministry and brought to the conditions demanded by that department.

(b) To be commanded by Argentine-born captains and officers, graduates of the naval school (retired or resigned from naval service), of the officers' schools, or of similar foreign institutions.

(c) The engines to be in charge of a native or naturalized Argentine engineer.

(d) The crews to be composed of at least 30 per cent born Argentinians and the remainder to be naturalized citizens.

(e) To navigate between Argentina and foreign ports in general trading and touching at those ports where parcels can be profitably picked up or discharged.

(f) The owner to sign a contract with the Executive power wherein the rate of hire be established in case of mobilization or war, together with the insurance premium to be paid while so employed.

(g) The owner to sign a contract with the Executive power whereby he is obliged to carry "official cargo" at 50 per cent of the ordinary market rate to any port of call, on condition that that cargo shall never exceed 20 per cent of the vessel's carrying capacity.

(h) The owner, on soliciting the inspection of the vessel, shall declare that he submits to all the navigation laws and regulations of the Republic without taking any foreign laws into consideration, even though he may be a foreigner.

(i) All owners living abroad must advise a legal address in this country, in order that all the clauses of Argentine law may be carried out without recourse to foreign jurisdiction.

The condition specified in clause (d) may be modified at judgment of the Executive power if found inconvenient or impossible.

The sea-going vessels accepting these conditions shall enjoy the following privileges, in addition to those accorded to Argentine vessels by Law 4079:

(a) Exemption from all lighthouse, sanitary, permanency, mole, manifest, postal privilege, roll, and other dues which are applied only to vessels and not to cargo, for a period of three years after first inscription, after which the dues will be levied with a 50 per cent reduction.

(b) Exemption from the payment of all import duties on material for the steamer's conservation and exploitation.

(c) Utilization of the naval reserve flag.

(d) Priority over any other vessel to tie up to any mole in national ports; in loading and discharging operations priority over those vessels, national or foreign, which have not postal privileges.

(e) A payment of \$5 [\$4.82 United States currency] per month for every Argentine-born sailor above the number established in clause d of the first article.

(f) Remuneration of \$20 m/n [\$8.40 U. S.] for every 100 miles navigated.

The remainder of the bill establishes that the contract between owner and State will be for five years, the Ministry of Marine being empowered to renew it if desirable. This will not be done if, through age or accident, the vessel has become unsuitable for service during war time. The owner can claim the rescinding of the contract by giving three months' notice, on condition that the contract has endured for two years.

METRIC SYSTEM IN PERUVIAN CAPITAL.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Sept. 25.]

By ordinance the municipal authorities of Lima have undertaken to enforce a law which for more than a generation has been on the statute books of Peru, making the metric system of weights and measures the only official one in the country. The ordinance went into effect on September 1, 1916, and in spite of some opposition at first seems to be working smoothly.

The law which first made the metric system official in Peru was passed March 10, 1869, to become effective July 28, 1869, and a decree regulating the manner of its enforcement was actually issued on April 23 of the same year. In the Paris Convention of 1875, in which Peru concurred, the nations represented agreed to adopt as official the decimal metric system. A law passed in 1891 created for Peru a Central Commission of Weights and Measures and outlined its duties, among which was to be that of enforcing the adoption of the metric system in all commercial houses. These and other measures adopted from time to time have resulted in what El Comercio speaks of as a "lame metric system in Peru"; that is, the system in vogue up to September 1, 1916, was a mixture of the metric and several other systems, the metric system having been adopted generally in the wholesale business. Meat was wholesaled at the public slaughterhouses by kilos and was retailed in the public markets by pounds. This is only one example of the incongruities that existed.

The president of the Lima Chamber of Commerce, in a communication dated September 4 and addressed to the national Government, petitions the authorities to suspend the ordinance with regard to certain commodities. The communication asserts that the metric system can not be easily made to apply to such articles as hides, leathers, pipes, hardware, machinery, and lumber. The matter is at present pending in committee in the legislature, and it is probable that the measure will be modified to accommodate the class of commodities listed. The daily press is, however, unanimous in its advocacy of the new law. American manufacturers desiring to enter this market should therefore conform in every manner practicable with the requirements of the ordinance, adopting the metric system wherever possible.

BOGOTA PLANS STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Colombia, Sept. 28.]

It is reported that the municipality of Bogota is studying a project of street sanitation which involves the expenditure of about \$2,500, United States currency, for the purchase of garbage carts. The municipal government is interesting itself also in leasing a small asphalt plant, planning to use the product for the paving of those streets the residents of which will defray 50 per cent of the cost of such work in front of their respective holdings.

Correspondence regarding garbage carts should be addressed to the Administrador de Aseo Público, Bogota, Colombia, while communications concerning street-paving machinery and implements should be sent to the Ingeniero Municipal. Both officials should be addressed in Spanish.

KITCHENER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COMMERCIAL TRAINING.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Ireland, Sept. 29.]

The Belfast News-Letter publishes a communication dated September 25, 1916, from the Lord Mayor of London, stating that the council of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund has resolved to found a number of scholarships which will enable young Britons destined for a commercial career to travel, study, and gain business experience.

The scholarships will be continued from year to year for all time, and will be of the annual value of about £150 (\$730) each. It is pointed out that after the war there will inevitably be a great increase of British trade, and many firms in the large industrial centers will find themselves in need of clerks, travelers, and technical experts familiar with the languages and the business methods of these countries. This need the scholarship project will help to meet. In developing it the council has been advised by business men and educational experts, so that the plan may be carried through with the highest degree of efficiency.

MEAT EXPORTS FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

The export of meat from Brazil increased in value from \$456,463 for the first eight months of 1915 to \$3,905,562 for the corresponding period in 1916. This export trade only began in November, 1914, but is generally regarded as being one of the chief sources of future wealth of Brazil. The amounts in kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds), with f. o. b. value, shipped for the first eight months of 1915 and 1916, with the countries of destination, follow:

Destination.	1915		1916	
	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
	<i>Kilos.</i>		<i>Kilos.</i>	
United States.....	285,163	\$48,625	2,367,304	\$474,460
France.....	48,620	7,538	4,373,226	841,194
Great Britain.....	2,160,729	375,247	4,061,090	811,488
Italy.....	151,082	25,053	8,892,103	1,778,420
Total.....	2,645,591	456,463	19,693,723	3,905,562

BUTTER SITUATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Sept. 9.]

There is a present demand in Sydney and throughout New South Wales for butter. Victoria has ample supplies, but as it sells on the markets there at \$36.50 per hundredweight (of 112 pounds) it can not be exported to New South Wales, as the price is fixed here by law at \$35.04 per hundredweight. There appears to be a demand in Queensland also, but there the price is the same as in Victoria.

As the demand is not general throughout Australia, the possibility of butter being again imported from the United States is not yet seriously considered. There were many criticisms concerning the American butter imported during 1915 and the branding quality of the timber used in making the boxes in which it was packed.

ECUADORIAN EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Sept. 25.]

Ecuador's new eight-hour law, the text of which appeared in the *Registro Oficial* of September 12, provides:

ART. 1. Every laborer, workman, clerk in store, office, or industrial establishment, and, in general, every employee of any kind shall not be forced to work more than eight hours daily, six days a week, and is exempt from work on Sundays and legal holidays.

ART. 2. No employer can evade the accomplishment of that decreed in Art. 1 by any contract or stipulation with the employee or laborer.

ART. 3. If the laborer, workman, clerk, etc., be requested to work longer than eight hours, as stated in Art. 1, he shall be paid 25 per cent overtime for the extra work done during the day, 50 per cent overtime from 6 in the evening to midnight, and 100 per cent after that hour. This percentage shall be computed on the wage corresponding to an hour's work during the day, and shall be paid on that basis for each additional hour.

ART. 4. The laborer who, because of his employment, has to work in shifts shall not be entitled to the percentage of overtime according to the hours of work as stated in Art. 3, but he shall be entitled to claim payment for working more than eight hours according to the percentage of overtime as fits the case.

ART. 5. The employer and the employee or day laborer shall give each other 30 days' notice before making any change. The party neglecting to do this may be sued and is subjected to the payment of loss and damages.

ART. 6. Police judges and parochial constables of the Republic are authorized to judge all such actions, which shall be done without delay and summarily; nothing else being required for bringing action than the registering of the complaint.

CHILEAN NITRATE STATISTICS FOR AUGUST.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Sept. 16.]

The production of nitrate of soda at all the Chilean oficinas during August, 1916, was 5,396,981 Spanish quintals of 101.4 pounds each. The exportation from all ports during the same period was 4,338,013 quintals. There was a slight increase (84,205 quintals) in production over the preceding month, but a considerable decline (1,336,075 quintals) in exports.

This falling off in shipments may be attributed largely to a storm that prevailed along the coast and delayed loading operations. A violent wind at Mejillones destroyed or beached a large number of lighters at that usually quiet port, thus crippling the loading facilities there until lighters to replace those destroyed were brought from other ports. During the latter part of August and the first part of September there were an unusual number of vessels in the nitrate ports awaiting cargo.

Chile's August production and exportation of nitrate in the last five years have been:

August -	Production.	Exportation.
	Quintals.	Quintals.
1912.....	4,870,821	4,115,303
1913.....	5,352,282	4,338,238
1914.....	4,839,657	1,362,189
1915.....	3,443,409	4,839,130
1916.....	5,396,981	4,338,013

Prices Advance—Factors that Increase Cost of Production.

The changes in price of nitrate on the coast have not been great, but the market has been rather firm. Nitrate is not pressed for sale

and the demand has not been insistent. Prices at Valparaiso have shown an advance of about 4d. (\$0.08) per quintal for ordinary nitrate and about 2d. (\$0.04) for the refined for early delivery. At the close of the month quotations for ordinary or 95 per cent nitrate were about 7s. 10d. (\$1.91) per quintal alongside for deliveries up to the end of 1916. Refined or 96 per cent—1 per cent nitrate was held at about 8s. 2d. (\$1.99) for deliveries in this year, while 8s. (\$1.95) is asked for next-year deliveries.

Factors that tend to increase prices are the possibilities of reduction in production, owing to the closing of some oficinas, and a reduction in fuel-oil supply to those oficinas that use oil instead of coal, the oil companies having given notice that for the immediate future they can supply only about 80 per cent of the amount formerly delivered. The wages of men employed in the oficinas as well as many other expenses incurred in producing and shipping nitrate are paid in Chilean paper currency, which fluctuates in value. The value of the paper peso has been rising for several months—being at present about 10d. (20.3 cents), or more than 30 per cent above its value a little over a year ago—and this rise increases the cost of production.

WIRE DRAG REVEALS ANOTHER PINNACLE ROCK.

The Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey reports the discovery of another case of what might be called dramatic dangers in Alaskan waters, by use of wire-drag apparatus.

In Seumour Canal, not far distant from the main passage used by vessels going from Wrangell to Juneau, and in waters constantly used by deep-draft vessels going to salmon canneries in the immediate neighborhood, a pinnacle rock has been found, bare at low water, in a spot surrounded by three soundings which were respectively, 48, 44, and 54 fathoms. In other words, where existing records show 288 feet of water, a rock spine is found of just that height, so small that the lead line failed to discover it, and only the wire drag made its presence known.

This is another of the cases of the pinnacle rocks from which numerous wrecks have occurred in the past and which only the present methods of survey are finding.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS PAID IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 19.]

The premiums collected during 1915 by domestic and foreign insurance companies operating in Spain amounted to \$13,783,067, an increase, compared with the year previous, of \$562,517. Premiums on straight life insurance amounted to \$4,532,000, against \$4,498,000 during 1914; premiums on fire-insurance policies to \$3,777,787, against \$3,573,180; and premiums on tontine policies to \$1,830,371, against \$1,702,150.

Of the total amount of premiums collected over \$8,000,000 went to Spanish companies, and the remaining \$5,000,000 to foreign companies. Of the premiums on life-insurance policies about two-thirds were collected by foreign companies, but in all other classes of insurance Spanish companies predominated.

NEW CIVIL CODE OF BRAZIL.

[Consul-General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

The new civil code of Brazil was adopted by decree No. 3071 published in the Official Gazette of January 3, 1916. It is to go into effect on January 1, 1917. There are numerous provisions in the new code that will affect certain classes of American business. Among the principal ones are the following:

The new code definitely guarantees the property rights of the authors, artists, or inventors of books and artistic works or scientific inventions. The very liberal term of 60 years is accorded them and their heirs for the enjoyment of these rights, after which the scientific or artistic invention or work falls to the public domain and becomes common property. Provision is also made for the prohibition of the publication, without express permission, of letters and other communications not originally intended to be published.

Water and Mining Rights.

The present mining law of Brazil was reported, with an exhaustive analysis of its text, by the Rio de Janeiro consulate general under date of April 15, 1915. [This report will be loaned to those interested by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington. Refer to file No. 60286.] This mining law, according to some of the best Brazilian authorities, was intended merely as a step toward future legislation, one of its main purposes having been apparently to circumscribe the rights of large landowners and absentee landlords and to amplify and enlarge the rights of the small individual prospector and discoverer of mines.

The new code goes a step further. It establishes clearly the right of every landowner not only to his land, but to the subsoil beneath it and to the air spaces above. Hitherto the intent, if not the actual letter, of the law—based upon an ancient European colonial model and the provisions of the Philippian Code of Portugal—had been that the undiscovered resources of the subsoil belonged rather to the community than to the individual owner of the land above them. This may have a far-reaching effect upon mining legislation in the future.

As regards water rights, the new code specifically ordains that the right to draw water from the subsoil of one's property rests with the owner of the land, provided, however, that by exploiting this right he does not injuriously diminish the water supply of his neighbors. He may not, therefore, bore a well deeper than his neighbor's with relation to the general level of the subterranean stream or deposit.

Rural Boundaries—Domicile and Homestead Rights.

The matter of boundaries is given extreme care by the codifier. Minute prescriptions of all sorts—all of them useful—are made; such, for instance, as that the fruit falling from a landowner's tree upon ground belonging to his neighbor becomes that neighbor's property, or that the tree which marks a boundary shall be the property in common of the two landowners whose holdings march with each other.

Nor is the question of rights of way and thoroughfare neglected. The owner of the ground that is shut off from a public highway or

from water by his neighbor's property may summons that neighbor to provide him with thoroughfare.

It is established by the new code that no man may by legal process be deprived of at least one piece of real estate which is regarded and held sacred as the homestead or last asylum of his family in time of stress. The law in this case protects not only the owner, but his wife and even his unborn children.

Certain very useful provisions—hitherto not incorporated in the Brazilian Code—are made concerning the actual "domicile" of a person claiming many residences. While the law establishes that the domicile is the place where the person has taken up his residence *animus manendi* ("with the intention of remaining"), it also provides that the law may for its own purposes consider any one of his habitual residences to be his domicile when he claims that he himself can not establish one.

Marriage, Divorce, and Rights of Women.

The illegality of marriage within certain close degrees of consanguinity and their consequent prohibition are indicated in terms that show the legislators to have been actuated by a knowledge of the best of modern ethnologic and eugenic authorities.

The line of cleavage is clearly established between divorce and legal separation—something which had until now been lacking in the existing law in the country.

A married man is prohibited from giving in bond or otherwise alienating, without the express consent of his wife, property which they hold in common or which is necessary for the subsistence of the family.

A man may not stop his wife's credit at shops where she purchases articles necessary in the actual conduct of her household; nor may he prohibit either her or the vender from dealing upon a credit basis in articles which are the necessities of family life. Further, any woman exercising a remunerative profession or working in a salaried position may dispose freely of what she earns without her husband's having a right to the moneys she thus receives.

SWISS EXPORTS OF CONDENSED MILK AND CHOCOLATE.

[Censal Walter H. Schults, Berne, Sept. 30.]

The important proportions assumed by some of Switzerland's export industries since the war is shown by recent figures.

Those of the condensed milk and chocolate exporters appear of special interest. The chocolate exports rose 50 per cent in 1915, as shown by the following figures:

Articles.	1913	1914	1915
Condensed milk.....	\$6,529,685	\$9,161,867	\$9,047,840
Chocolate.....	11,227,003	10,679,462	15,913,632

These interests represent approximately \$50,000,000 of capital and, together with the silk and watch trade, rank among the most important in the country.

ARGENTINE MARKET FOR WALL PAPER.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 9.]

The consumption of wall paper in Argentina has been steadily increasing for many years and is likely to augment in the future. Cheap and medium-priced papers have come from Germany and England and the better qualities from France. The superiority of French wall paper consists in the quality of the paper rather than in the printing. German, English, Swedish, and Italian wall papers seem to contain too much wood pulp, whereas the French fabric probably contains a higher percentage of rag and straw fiber and is much stronger. Papers containing too much wood pulp absorb moisture from the paste when being laid, and the colors fade more quickly in the parts that have absorbed the most moisture; the blotchy effect may become noticeable within six months. French paper is also lighter in weight than the others, for which reason it occasionally happens that while the paper is apparently higher priced, the smaller amount of duty payable on it may counterbalance the difference in price. Swedish and Italian papers are mostly imitations of English styles and have had little sale.

So far as is known, and in this regard statistics are not available, little, if any, North American wall paper was brought into the country in competition with English, French, and German. One factor which has weighed against North American salesmen in their attempts to sell wall paper was the fact that their manufacturers were not able to put themselves into line with their competitors in the matter of lengths and widths.

Lengths and Widths.

In the old-fashioned houses in Buenos Aires the rooms are very lofty, 4 meters (13 feet) being the usual height. To meet this condition the rolls have always been brought in in 8-meter lengths. It is easy to imagine the inconvenience and loss that would be caused to a paper hanger who would commence to paper a 4-meter wall with 8-yard rolls. It would mean that he would either have to throw away three-fourths of the paper or make a joining in each alternate strip.

The question of widths is, of course, not so important. In the past rolls had necessarily to be 8 meters by 0.5 meter (26 by 1.6 feet), because importers insisted on this point, but some English houses used to sell a roll slightly exceeding these measurements, i. e., 8.50 meters by 0.55 meter (28 by 1.8 feet). Conditions have changed largely, however, during the last two years. A large number of modern buildings containing flats and offices have been built, and the height of the walls in these buildings varies considerably, but is almost always less than 4 meters. For modern buildings, therefore, an 8-yard, or better still, a 16-yard length is acceptable.

Importers to-day, now that the French and German supplies have been almost entirely cut off, can not afford to be so exacting as they were previously. If the prices and designs suit them, they will not insist so much on the matter of lengths as they would formerly have done.

Styles in Demand.

There is a demand in Argentina for the very cheapest and also for the most expensive kinds of wall paper obtainable. The average Argentinian is possessed of good taste, and the wealthier classes do not

hesitate to pay very high prices for elaborate designs. Embossed, silvered, and gilded papers and moldings, which, in addition to a heavy first cost, entail the payment of a more than proportionately heavy duty, are used for dining rooms. The cheaper kinds of wall paper, such as have been coming from Germany, have nothing characteristic in their designs, being more or less similar to those used elsewhere.

A style of medium priced paper recently much in evidence but now going out of fashion is one that imitates tapestry. Another style that is being displayed largely just now is a single-colored paper, the design of which seems to aim at imitating the graining of Morocco leather. Oatmeal papers have not had much sale so far, but it is said that certain quantities of them are being purchased in North America for next winter season. Bedroom papers are usually on white backgrounds, lined and flowered. In general it may be said that styles change about every two years.

Terms and Prices—Packing.

Nearly all business in wall paper is done on a basis of the delivery of documents against the acceptance of a 90 or 120 days' sight draft. Some manufacturers offer a discount for cash against documents and a further discount for letter of credit terms; but importers rarely if ever take advantage of these discounts. Prices are quoted by all manufacturers in francs, shillings, or dollars gold per roll, f. o. b. port of shipment. Insurance to be paid for account of purchaser; packing for account of purchaser also. This latter item, however, is frequently not charged up, especially when the order happens to be a large one. There is no fixed rule about this, however.

A bale of wall paper consists of 300 to 400 rolls. The finer qualities come packed in wooden cases, but medium and cheaper qualities are packed in burlap. The purchaser as a rule prefers the last-named method of packing, because the customs duties are levied on the gross weight of the package.

HORTICULTURE ADVANCING IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 26.]

Horticulture has made notable progress in the Amsterdam district during recent years. This is especially true of the northern Provinces. Ten years ago, in Groningen, only here and there could a hothouse be seen, but now in practically every village of that Province one may see fruit and vegetables growing under glass. This has particular importance because certain varieties which are grown in the open in the southern Provinces will not mature in the northern excepting under warm shelter.

The development of large nurseries is also an innovation in some parts of Groningen and Friesland, and they are constantly increasing in number.

A great stimulus to horticulture has been the increased price of garden products since the war began. Tender vegetables, like tomatoes, beans, and cucumbers, which can not be grown successfully in the north except under glass, are now sold there at prices higher by 100 to 300 per cent than before the war. Cabbages and other outdoor vegetables sell at similarly advanced prices. Fruits have increased in price—not in so great a degree as vegetables, but sufficiently to stimulate production.

VOLUME COMMEMORATES COAST SURVEY CENTENNIAL.

An illustrated publication of 196 pages, octavo, presenting material which relates to the one hundredth anniversary of the commencement of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, has been issued by the Department of Commerce. The book contains the addresses delivered on that occasion, covering various phases of the history and activities of the survey from its inception to the present time, and there is added a brief note on the origin of the survey with copies of various documents of historic interest.

The illustrations include portraits of all the superintendents of the survey; views of some of the surveying vessels, beginning with the schooner *Experiment*, the first vessel used in the survey, and ending appropriately with the recently purchased steamer *Isis* and the launching of the steamer *Surveyor*, the latest addition to the surveying fleet; also many cuts of instruments, apparatus, and other objects of interest.

Three Public Sessions Followed by Banquet.

The celebration of the centennial included three public sessions at the New National Museum, following which a banquet was given in the New Willard Hotel, at which the invited speakers were the President of the United States, the Minister of Switzerland, the Secretaries of the Navy and of Commerce, and Dr. T. C. Mendenhall, one of the former superintendents of the survey. An exhibition was held also in the New National Museum illustrative of the history and progress, the methods, instruments, and publications of the survey. Of these a brief mention is made in the present publication.

This volume, entitled "Centennial Celebration of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1916," may be obtained without charge by applying to the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.	Oct. 30	Do.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Cium, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 19	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana. .	.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay. .	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward P.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany. .	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.

GERMAN PRODUCTION OF OIL FROM FRUIT STONES.

[Consul General Leo Bergholz, Dresden, Saxony, Sept. 19.]

To increase the supply of oil and fat, poppy and sunflower seeds have been even more widely sown this year than last. In 1915 about 662,250 pounds of oil were obtained from sunflower seeds, and this year promises a rich crop of poppy seed. Attention has also been drawn to the high percentage of oil contained in cherry and plum stones, which are usually thrown away. According to the statistics of 1900 there were 22,000,000 cherry and 70,000,000 plum trees in Germany. Large quantities of fruit stones were collected by school children last year, but great quantities were thrown away or destroyed, owing to the difficulty of extracting the oil from them.

The chief obstacle lay in the fact of their being no really practical method known by which the hard outer shell and the kernel containing the oil could be separated. The firm of M. Martin in Bitterfeld has succeeded in constructing a machine which solves this difficulty. The firm Krupp Grusonwerk has also experimented successfully in grinding the stones between millstones, but after the outer shell has been cracked open it still remains carefully to separate the kernels from the crushed stones, and for this process no satisfactory machine has as yet been invented. The problem of separating stones and kernels has been solved by Dr. Alpers, who has discovered a chemical process, which is also to be recommended on account of the attendant small outlay.

RUSSIAN EXPORT FIGURES.

[Compiled in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from Russian official statistics.]

The following table shows the quantity of certain articles exported from European Russia during the first six months of 1915 and 1916, together with the principal ports of shipment:

Articles.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.	Articles.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.
Beams and planks.. tons..	82,000	133,500	Eggs—Continued.		
From Archangel.....	67,300	105,700	From Petrograd,		
Cigars and cigarettes,			number.....	72,801,000	6,663,000
number.....		36,149,000	Flax and flax tow.. tons..	27,600	55,100
From Petrograd by			From Archangel.. do..	27,300	53,700
rail to Finland,			Hemp and hemp tow. do..	2,100	9,600
number.....		35,929,000	Wheat..... bushels..	924,000	1,724,000
Eggs..... number..	123,351,000	16,804,000	From Archangel.. do..	875,900	1,724,000
From Archangel.. do..	60,550,000	10,141,000			

ALMERIA INCREASES SILKWORM PRODUCTION.

[Consular Agent Bartley F. Yost, Almeria, Spain, Sept. 23.]

According to statistics just published, the production of silkworms in the Province of Almeria for the current year has reached 15,637 pounds, as compared with 10,063 pounds for 1915. This industry is confined chiefly to the interior localities of Abia, Abucena, Alcolea, Fondon, Fifiñana, Laujar, and Paterna.

[Mention was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 8, 1916, of the measures now being taken by the Government to foster the silk industry of Spain.]

THE AUTOMOBILE SITUATION IN CEYLON.

[Vice Consul John A. Nye, Colombo, Aug. 9.]

On August 2, 1916, the Ceylon Legislative Council passed an ordinance imposing a duty of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent ad valorem on motor cars imported into Ceylon. The resolution reads:

That from and after the date of this resolution customs duty shall be leviable upon the articles specified in the schedule hereto to the amount therein stated: Motor vehicles, other than motor lorries and other than vehicles which are imported under license given by or on behalf of the governor, for every 100 rupees of the value thereof, 33.33 rupees.

The motor lorries referred to in the ordinance are motor trucks used for commercial and industrial purposes, the import duty on these remaining at the old rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem.

Last year's Imports.

Imports of motor cars into Ceylon for the 12 months ending May 31, 1916, with the countries of origin, were:

Month.	United Kingdom.	France.	Italy.	United States.
1915.				
June.....	6			14
July.....	4			5
August.....	5			
September.....	5			31
October.....	5	1		7
November.....	8	2		35
December.....	9			35
1916.				
January.....	7	1	1	20
February.....	2	1		51
March.....	1	1		3
April.....	6	3		33
May.....	3		1	36
Total.....	61	9	2	270

These figures are taken from the Ceylon monthly customs returns. There were 407, 459, and 273 cars imported into Ceylon in 1913, 1914, and 1915, respectively. It is estimated that there are over 3,000 cars in the island.

Effects of New Duty.

Present owners of motor cars are increasing by one-third the estimated valuation of their cars for sale or trading purposes. One large firm of motor-car dealers is reported to have received a shipment of about 100 American cars just before the new tax became effective. They have not as yet raised their retail prices, but announce the policy of advancing the Ceylon price to correspond with the higher tax beginning September 1, 1916. Thus, it is announced that the present price of one American five-passenger touring car will be increased from 5,200 rupees to 6,950 rupees (from \$1,685 to \$2,255); and the price of another from 5,250 rupees to 6,950 rupees (from \$1,700 to \$2,255).

It is thought that the new duty will not affect the trade in low-priced cars so much as in the higher-priced ones. However, the object of the new law is prohibition; hence, if imports continue in

normal quantities it is probable that importation will be prohibited altogether. Dealers predict that the trade in motor lorries will be stimulated by the operation of the new law.

Probable Demand for Motor Lorries.

There should be an excellent future for the sale of motor lorries in Ceylon. They have come into general use in the Colombo district only within the last four or five years. Transportation has usually been accomplished by bullock carts. But various tropical cattle ailments, such as rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease, break out occasionally among the worked bullocks, so it is coming about that the 2-miles-per-hour bullock carts are in some instances being replaced by motor trucks. The Post and Telegraph Department, up-country tea and rubber estates, and transportation companies are beginning to use this more rapid form of freight conveyance. The Ceylon Government Railway about a year ago put on several motor trucks.

At the present time there are said to be 5,500 bullocks used for transportation purposes in Ceylon. It is reckoned that 10-bullock carts are replaced by one 3-ton truck, so there is a possible market for approximately 500 trucks. There will always be some bullock carts used on the narrow roads of the interior hill country, but in the low country it seems only a question of time when motor trucks will be in general use.

Until 1915 motor trucks were not listed separately from motor cars in the Ceylon customs returns. The figures show that 23 lorries were imported during that year, and it is estimated by local dealers that there are now about 100 trucks in the island. The usual retail price of a 3-ton truck is 10,000 rupees (\$3,245).

[A list of the leading motor-truck dealers in Ceylon may be had from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 80265. An exhaustive review of the motor-vehicle trade of Ceylon, by Consul Charles K. Moser, appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Nov. 12, 1913; an article on the demand for motor lorries, by Consul Henry D. Baker, was published in the issue for July 18 of the same year.]

NINE MONTHS' RECORD OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

During the nine months ended September 30, 1916, American shipyards completed 846 merchant vessels of 361,113 gross tons, compared with 1,026 vessels of 154,086 gross tons during the corresponding nine months of 1915. The steel vessels built number 91 of 265,366 gross tons compared with 67 of 85,692 gross tons for the 1915 period. Thus far this year 5 steel steamships of 17,203 gross tons have been completed for foreign owners.

LARGE TURPENTINE PLANT IN RUSSIA.

[Consul F. Willoughby Smith, Tiflis, Sept. 13.]

One of the most important industries recently opened up in the Caucasus is a large plant for the production of French turpentine near the railroad station of Borjom, in the Government of Tiflis.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Typewriters, sewing machines, etc., No. 22734.—An American consular officer in France writes that a firm in his district wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of typewriters, sewing machines, washing machines, household articles, novelties, and artificial limbs. Correspondence in English. References.

Wearing apparel, machinery, etc., No. 22735.—A business man in Mexico desires to represent American manufacturers of shoes and hats, textiles, beer, wire, machinery, and machinery parts, etc. References.

Agricultural implements, etc., No. 22736.—The Bureau is informed that an export house on the Pacific coast is in receipt of an inquiry from Russia regarding agricultural implements, refrigerators, laundry machinery, etc. Catalogues and full information desired. References.

Cotton goods, No. 22737.—A firm of commission merchants in Spain informs an American consular officer of its desire to import all kinds of cotton goods from the United States. Correspondence in English. References.

Copal, No. 22738.—A commercial organization in the United States has forwarded to the Bureau an inquiry from a producer of copal in the Philippines who desires to be placed in touch with importers and others interested in the purchase of that product, which is used in the manufacture of varnish.

Coffee machinery, No. 22739.—An American consular officer in Uruguay reports that a Spanish merchant made inquiry for electric coffee roasters and roasters suitable for alternating current and a one or two horsepower motor. He is also interested in other machinery useful to wholesale coffee dealers. Catalogues and correspondence may be in English.

Cotton and woolen goods, etc., No. 22740.—A wholesale dealer in Norway wishes to enter into commercial relations with manufacturers of all kinds of hosiery and underwear and cotton and woolen goods.

Hardware, paints, varnishes, etc., No. 22741.—An American consular officer in Portugal reports that a newly organized commission firm would like to represent American manufacturers and exporters of small hardware, paints, and varnishes, writing papers, and drugs. The firm is also willing to act as agent for American importers desiring to purchase wines, corkwood, cocoa, etc. Correspondence in English.

Wrapping paper, No. 22742.—A company in the United States informs the Bureau that its representative in one of the West Indies is in the market for wrapping paper. Samples of the paper may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 158.)

Jars and tubes for cosmetics, etc., No. 22743.—A man in Australia writes that he is in the market for 2-ounce opal pots or jars with screw metal tops, used for cosmetics; also small tubes or vials from 2 drams upward, with stoppers and metal screw tops, for perfumes, etc. Illustrated catalogues and full particulars desired with first letter. Synthetic perfume is also desired.

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NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
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COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. By. Co.
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BRITISH WAR OFFICE REQUISITIONS HIDES.

[Cablegram from the American consul general, London, England, Oct. 18, 1916.]

War Office gives notice intention to take possession of all ox, cow, and bull hides imported into United Kingdom from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and South America and all other imported ox, cow, and bull hides, wet salted of 45 pounds, dry salted of 25 pounds, and dry of 18 pounds and over. All hides in process of conversion into leather are excepted from order.

SHIPMENTS OF APPLES TO SCANDINAVIA.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 18.]

British authorities now state that no objection will be raised to the shipment of fresh apples to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, provided usual guaranties as to reexportation are given and provided figures of total imports for corresponding pre-war period of each Scandinavian country for home consumption are not exceeded. Any shipments of apples for Denmark which may be bona fide reexported to Russia will not be included in Danish imports for home consumption.

IMPORTATION OF PRECIOUS STONES IN FRANCE.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Oct. 17.]

A notice of the Minister of Commerce, published October 12, permits importation with special authorization of diamonds and precious stones, if cut for jewelry manufacture, provided the value of cut stones equals value of exports, though exportation need not necessarily be made by original importer.

Predictions of a world boom in textile machinery after the war are quoted by the Textile Mercury, of Manchester, England. "With the exception of the Southern States of America," it says, "there has been a check to expansion. Providing the world's financial situation is elastic enough, after the restoration of peace, there will be an immediate need for extension."

EXPORT RECORD AGAIN BROKEN.

Still another export record has been broken. The total value of goods shipped out of this country in September was \$512,847,957, or \$3,000,000 more than for August, when exports first passed the half billion mark for a single month.

Exports for the 12 months ending with September were in round terms \$5,000,000,000. The precise figures announced by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the department were \$4,971,945,883, as against \$3,177,764,184 in the preceding 12 months and an annual average of \$2,453,000,000 in the five years preceding 1915-16. Our exports of domestic products in the month of September were larger than those for the entire fiscal year 1875, the closing year of our first centenary.

September imports fell off sharply from the totals of previous months, having been \$164,128,604 in value, or less by \$35,000,000 than those of August, less by \$82,000,000 than those of June, the high-record month, but larger by \$18,000,000 than the monthly average of \$146,000,000 for the corresponding month during the past five years. For the year ending with September last imports totaled \$2,307,766,567, compared with \$1,681,298,913 last year and an annual average of \$1,725,000,000 for 1911-1915.

Of the month's imports, 71.3 per cent entered free of duty, compared with 71.6 per cent in September, 1915.

The favorable trade balance for September was \$348,719,343, being \$200,000,000 larger than that for September, 1915, and \$332,000,000 more than that for September, 1914. The 12 months to September 30, 1916, show a favorable trade balance of \$2,664,179,316, compared with \$1,496,465,271 last year and \$342,714,840 two years ago.

The net inward gold movement aggregated \$85,713,799 for the month and \$456,032,344 for the 12 months ending September 30. Last year the figures were \$40,028,459 and \$205,440,751, respectively, the net inward gold movement having doubled in one year. September gold imports were \$92,562,940, against \$42,062,449 last year and \$2,761,590 two years ago. September gold exports were \$6,849,141, against \$2,033,990 last year and \$21,887,202 in September, 1914. For the 12 months ending with September gold imports aggregated \$568,952,044, compared with \$283,336,809 last year and \$57,447,170 in 1913-14. Gold exports for the 12 months were \$112,919,700, compared with \$77,896,058 one year ago and \$175,376,109 two years ago.

TO SELECT ARCHITECT FOR AUSTRALIAN BUILDING.

A copy of the program for the international competition to select an architect for the Federal Parliament House at the new capital city of Canberra in Australia has been forwarded from Sydney by Consul General J. I. Brittain. The Government has resumed the competition, and extended the date for receiving the designs in either London or Melbourne from March 31, 1915, to January 31, 1917. The Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction is Walter Burley Griffin, whose address is Department of Home Affairs, Federal Capital Office, 84 William Street, Melbourne, Victoria. A copy of the pamphlet giving full details of the competition may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81211.

AMERICA TO RESTOCK WORLD WITH FARM MACHINERY.

Foreign-trade problems, particularly those in relation to agricultural implements, were discussed yesterday before the annual convention of the National Implement and Vehicle Association at Atlantic City, by Dr. Edward Ewing Pratt, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. He predicted a very large demand for agricultural machinery of all kinds immediately following the close of the war, and said that the United States would have the privilege and duty of restocking those countries with suitable machinery. He stated that the stocks of machines had been exhausted in some of the belligerent countries, and continuing, said:

There is another point which we should take into consideration and that is that the loss of men, the loss of labor power in Europe, has been great and irreparable. There is just one alternative if the belligerent countries of Europe and their colonies are to get back to the normal producing basis as it was before the war, and that is to use labor-saving machinery. The largest number by far of the men who have been lost were engaged in agricultural pursuits. It is particularly important, therefore, that the European nations supply themselves with the very best labor-saving devices along the lines of agricultural implements, machinery, and farm-operating equipment. Already we see decided moves in this direction by the European nations. Not long ago we received a visit from a French commission, one of the members of which was an expert interested in agricultural machinery. He was here to see what labor-saving devices we could supply in connection with agriculture.

Declares Great Opportunity Exists.

Dr. Pratt expressed the opinion that "although our present exports of farm-operating machinery are far below normal a great opportunity exists. It is not the opportunity to put our products on the ships and send them off to foreign countries and get the money by return mail, but it is the opportunity to find out what is wanted in foreign markets, to establish connections, to place our goods before the purchasers, and to be ready, just as soon as the shipping situation eases up and just as soon as the war is over, to place our products in foreign markets."

The speaker also discussed the general foreign trade of the United States and pointed to the past two years as a period of transition. "Nevertheless," he said, "too many of us are apt to think that we had no foreign trade prior to the outbreak of the European war. As a matter of fact, the United States stood third among the exporting nations of the world, and the recent great growth in our trade is really the climax of a development which has been going on for several decades."

New Copper Deposits Discovered in Newfoundland.

The Canadian press reports the discovery of important copper deposits at Little Bay, about 200 miles north of St. John's, Newfoundland. The lode is known at present to be 300 feet wide. Assays made on the ground show rich veins 1 to 2 feet wide, which contain nearly pure cupro-pyrites, running as high as 29½ per cent of copper. Work on the lodes has already been begun, and a hydraulic plant is now being installed with a view to operating a 200-ton concentrator. Copper has been mined in the locality in the past, and this new strike, says the journal referred to, promises to be one of the richest copper deposits in British North America.

NINE MONTHS' FIGURES OF HULL OIL AND SEED TRADE.

[Consul Charles M. Hathaway, Jr., Hull, England, Oct. 6.]

Imports of oilseeds for the 39 weeks ended October 3, 1916, compared with the corresponding period of 1915, according to the Hull Chamber of Commerce, were as follows:

Kinds of seeds.	1915	1916	Kinds of seeds.	1915	1916
Linseed (quarters).....	820,191	925,573	Cotton seed, other (tons).....	22,298	55,440
Rapeseed (quarters).....	75,474	149,919	Soya beans (tons).....	101,184	57,265
Castor beans (quarters).....	112,938	152,143	Palm kernels (tons).....	23,299	48,385
Cotton seed, Egyptian (tons).....	126,974	88,916	Oil cake (tons).....	24,150	27,825

* Figures of Hull Eastern Morning News.

Linseed in quarters of 410, 416, and 424 pounds; rapeseed, quarters of 416 and 424 pounds; castor seed quarters of about 416 pounds. Ton equals 2,240 pounds

Quantities Exported and Prices of Products.

Exports of oil for the same period were: Linseed, 18,304 tons in 1915 and 613 tons in 1916; cottonseed, 4,464 in 1915 and 320 in 1916; soya, 2,033 in 1915 and none in 1916. The price of linseed oil has risen steadily from \$17.03 per quarter on July 4 to \$20.32 on October 3. Plata linseed quoted on June 20 at \$16.67 per quarter was not again traded in until August 8, but since then it has advanced slowly to \$18.49 on October 3. Calcutta linseed advanced from \$16.55 on July 4 to \$18.49 on September 26.

Egyptian cottonseed opened the quarter at \$63.26 per ton, and closed at \$59.61, the range of fluctuation being between \$58.40 on August 22 and \$69.35 on September 26. Other cottonseed, chiefly Bombay, advanced from \$53.53 per ton on July 4 to \$60.83 on October 3. Refined cottonseed oil fell steadily from \$10.34 per hundredweight of 112 pounds on July 4 to \$9.24 per hundredweight on October 3.

The oil market was generally rather sluggish.

RUSSIAN IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY.

[L'Économiste Européen, Sept. 29.]

The following table shows the production of cast iron, partly manufactured articles of iron and steel, and manufactures of iron and steel in the different parts of Russia during the last two years:

Articles and regions.	1914	1915	Articles and regions.	1914	1915
	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>		<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Cast iron.....	4,769,300	4,063,100	Manufactured articles of iron and steel.....	4,334,100	3,809,500
Central Russia.....	2,333,500	3,004,000	Central Russia.....	2,638,800	2,385,800
Ural region.....	946,900	987,700	Ural region.....	733,000	722,800
Moscow region.....	188,700	127,800	Moscow region.....	300,800	284,800
Volga region.....	28,700	21,100	Volga region.....	183,100	167,800
North and Baltic regions.....	1,000	1,500	North and Baltic regions.....	205,700	234,800
Poland.....	269,500	.....	Poland.....	312,000	200
Partly manufactured articles of iron and steel.....	5,308,800	4,529,100			
Central Russia.....	2,694,200	2,739,200			
Ural region.....	1,025,000	1,040,500			
Moscow region.....	229,300	222,000			
Volga region.....	237,500	216,500			
North and Baltic regions.....	302,900	310,900			
Poland.....	389,800	.....		

SPANISH KNIT GOODS INDUSTRY.

[Consul General Carl Balley Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 25.]

The knit goods industry is highly developed in Catalonia, where woolen, cotton, silk, and mixed knit goods are turned out in every variety. Exports of this merchandise have recently assumed unexpected proportions. In 1913 cotton and woolen knit goods exported from Spain amounted in value to \$2,309,568, in 1914 to \$3,807,531, and in 1915 to \$12,379,349, the exports during the last year being over 5 times as great as two years before. The figures given do not include knit goods of linen, jute, or silk, the export of which is small.

Exports of Knit Goods.

The articles chiefly represented in the export and the amounts shipped during the past three years are in metric tons:

Articles.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Knitted cotton piece goods, underwear.....	983	1,121	3,192
Cotton hosiery, gloves, etc.....	60	110	650
Knitted woolen goods.....	9	378	1,295

Early in the nineteenth century this industry had attained sufficient importance in Spain to be protected by Government measures, and with the introduction of modern machinery and methods the local manufacture of knit goods has grown and prospered. It is now largely centered along the coast between the Besos and Tordera Rivers in the Province of Barcelona. Among the towns where this industry employs a large part of the population may be mentioned Mataro, Arenys de Mar, Canet, and Colella. In Barcelona and Tarrasa many important plants are devoted exclusively to the manufacture of knit goods. Men, women, and children are employed in the industry, and in the villages in particular much of the finishing work on garments is done in homes as piecework.

American Knitting Machine Needles.

While some of the machinery used in the mills is imported, a large part originates in Barcelona, where five yarn change machines for knitting stockings, seamless machines, loopers, and other knitting machines are constructed, but the question of needles has caused anxiety. These had been imported from elsewhere in Europe, and when the source of supply was cut off by the war their lack threatened to paralyze local manufacture. American-made knitting-machine needles have been successfully introduced, and the outlook for increased imports in this line seems promising.

Insurance Companies in Portugal.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 23.]

At present there are 57 insurance companies authorized to do business in Portugal. Some of these have not begun active operations, and the last available statistics are for 1914, when there were 42 Portuguese companies, 7 of them being mutual organizations, and 12 foreign companies. Most of the latter are English corporations with branches in Portugal.

PAPER ON MEASURING PUMPS FOR GASOLINE.

Aid for those who seek accuracy in the measuring of gasoline is offered by a recent publication of the United States Bureau of Standards. The importance of efficient measuring apparatus is emphasized by the steady increase in the quantity of the fluid that is consumed and its present high price.

On account of the convenience of the measuring pump in delivering gasoline to the consumer with a minimum of evaporation, spillage, and fire hazard, by far the greater part of this commodity is sold through this type of measuring apparatus. There are several types of measuring systems in use in this country, the most common being the piston type, in principle the same as the ordinary plunger pump, equipped with stops to define the volume discharged. Other familiar types of gasoline measuring apparatus are: Second, the meter type, in which the gasoline is discharged through a meter by displacement of the oil over water, or by pneumatic pressure or by mechanical pumping; third, the overflow measuring-chamber type, in which an excess over nominal delivery is supplied to a visible measuring chamber and the excess removed by air pressure or other means to a definite level; fourth, the gauge glass, or float-gauge type in which the amount of liquid drawn off is read on a transparent gauge glass or by a float traversing a scale graduated in suitable units.

The principal causes of short delivery are leaks in valves or piping; formation of vapor due to excessive suction lift, or the introduction of air under the piston; failure to correct for the inertia of a long column of moving liquid; the use of long filling hoses with a low connection at the pump, making proper draining of hose an impossibility; "short stroking" or operation of pump at less than full stroke (usually deliberate); and slippage past valves and piston.

Proper Routine for Inspectors Described.

A proper routine for inspectors to use in testing measuring pumps, as well as the requisites for sealing and the manner of keeping detailed records, are completely described in the full paper.

Of numerous measuring systems of various types chosen at random and tested by the Bureau of Standards' inspector in a number of different cities, 70 to 80 per cent had excessive errors. There were many outfits so constructed as to be absolutely unsuited for retail liquid dispensing. Of those outfits which were incorrect, nearly all were delivering in deficiency, which is unfortunately a characteristic of the types of measuring pumps now most commonly used. This tendency toward deficient measurement is worthy of careful consideration as it results in the aggregate to enormous monetary losses to the public.

Since this paper was written, subsequent tests in many cities corroborate the figures given above in every essential, and it is safe to say that in all localities not under an efficient and competent weights-and-measures administration, and in a large majority of those which do have a relatively competent weights-and-measures administration, the condition of measuring pumps is such that the motoring public is being subjected to regular and continuous shortages in its purchases of gasoline. Figures based on the best estimates obtainable show that in the State of Illinois, the losses to the people

of the Commonwealth, due to short measure in gasoline. are not less than \$530,000 annually.

Copies of this publication, Technologic Paper No. 81, may be obtained by applying to the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

FRENCH SUPPLIES OF TOBACCO.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Sept. 26.]

Figures just published covering the foreign trade of France for the first seven months of 1916, with comparative data for the two preceding years, show that this Republic imported from the United States 48,390,360 pounds of leaf tobacco, against 9,867,670 pounds in the like period of 1915 and 42,351,010 pounds in January-July, 1914. These quantities formed 60 per cent of the total imports of leaf tobacco into France in the first seven months of the current year, 40 per cent in the like period of 1915, and 66 per cent in January-July, 1914.

The American share in the French purchases of foreign manufactured tobacco is not disclosed by the statistics now available, but the imports (general commerce) of these products from all countries for the seven-month period under review totaled:

Tobacco and manufactures.	January-July—		
	1914	1915	1916
Leaf.....pounds.....	64,268,490	25,413,670	80,156,780
United States.....do.....	42,351,010	9,867,670	48,390,360
Cigars.....number.....	26,185,900	20,860,800	48,546,600
Cigarettes.....pounds.....	811,520	973,120	2,664,620
Other manufactures.....do.....	1,614,885	1,471,585	1,934,115

While the French tobacco crop of 1916, which suffered from spring rains, will probably not exceed 26,450,000 pounds, it is believed there will be no perceptible shortage in the supply available for consumption. During the first seven months of 1916 there were manufactured in France 48,894,100 pounds of "scaferlati" (the usual mixture of French and foreign tobaccos). This does not include the tobacco used for cigarettes, which, at the middle of July last, amounted to 4,720,100 pounds—a quantity sufficient to make 2,141,000,000 cigarettes. It should be noted that in 1914 the manufacture of "scaferlati" did not exceed 33,334,000 pounds, and there were placed on sale 4,382,800 pounds of cigarettes. Moreover, up to the end of June, 1916, there were manufactured 341,715 pounds of "demi-londres" cigars.

The total sales of tobacco in the first half of 1914 amounted to \$52,662,950; of 1915 to \$46,438,100; of 1916 to \$50,996,400, not counting the large quantities of tobacco furnished to the army.

A supplement to the United States Coast Pilot, Atlantic Coast, Section D, has been issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey under date of September 22, 1916. It gives the more important corrections and additions affecting the text of the Coast Pilot volume since its publication.

SHIPPING SITUATION IN NORWAY.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Sept. 21.]

According to Norwegian commercial interests, Norway is going to be an important factor in the world's mercantile marine activities after the war. Shipbuilding and shipping have never known such activity. Old shipyards are being extended and new ones established. Shipping companies are being formed almost daily, old concerns increase their capital, and vessels keep changing hands at unusually high prices. Old vessels have been purchased in all parts of the world and new ones contracted for in the United States, England, Denmark, the Netherlands, and other countries.

The annual report of the Norwegian Veritas for 1915 states that Norway has not been able to produce in its own shipyards the necessary new tonnage required for its mercantile marine, which has suffered severe losses in both the number of vessels and tonnage lost, because of the war; nevertheless, the latest official figures of the size of its mercantile marine record an increase.

Shipbuilding Returns.

The returns show that in 1915 there were built in Norway 56 steamers of 53,840 gross tons, 12 motor vessels of 19,521 tons, and a sailing vessel of 69 tons net, as against 48,266 tons of steam tonnage in 1914 and 52,192 tons in 1913. Vessels under construction or on order in Norwegian shipyards at the beginning of 1916 amounted to about 160,000 tons, steam and motor, against 103,000 tons in 1915 and 91,000 tons in 1914. Bergen stands first on the list of ship-producing towns, with 18 vessels of 13,000 tons; Christiania second with 11 vessels of 10,941 tons, then follows Fevik with 9,150 tons, Fredrikstad with 6,568 tons, Trondhjem with 4,825 tons, and Stavanger with 2,888 tons. In addition there was building or on order for Norwegian owners over 240,000 tons in foreign shipyards. Official figures show that 82 Norwegian steamers of a total of 115,933 tons, and 53 sailing vessels, totaling 50,378 tons, were destroyed during 1915. The Norwegian mercantile marine was enlarged by the addition of vessels approximating 141,036 tons during 1915.

Shipping Profits—Vessels Purchased.

In an article regarding the shipping and economic expansion of the country a local paper calculates the gross profits of the shipping for 1915 to have been about \$134,000,000 and for the first six months of 1916 at about the same figure.

Materials for shipyards have been purchased in the United States by Norwegian interests and many orders have been placed there for new ships. The second-hand tonnage bought in 1915 amounted to 325,000, as compared with 83,000 and 55,000 tons in 1913 and 1914, respectively. Of the old tonnage purchased 81,000 were obtained from Greece, 52,000 tons from Sweden, 44,000 tons from England, 43,000 tons from Spain, 36,000 tons from the Netherlands, 23,000 tons from Denmark, and 45,000 tons from other countries. Although large prices were paid for these vessels the great profits that Norwegian owners are making enable them to write down the book value of their vessels and at the same time to set aside large sums to reserve, thus placing themselves in a strong financial position. As high as \$200 a ton on the deadweight was recently paid by a Norwegian firm for a new Japanese steamer.

Concrete Ships—Shipowners' Association.

A new type of ship has just been built in Norway and is at present lying in the harbor of Christiania. It is constructed entirely of concrete with the exception of the ribs, which are of steel. It is claimed that the hull will resist damage better than any other material and is consequently more safe. According to press reports it is proposed to construct concrete ships of from 15,000 to 20,000 tons displacement to be used as railway ferries between Goteborg and England.

The membership of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association, at the close of its last financial year, aggregated 350 members, owning ships with a total of 2,135,000 tons cargo capacity, according to a report just issued. The largest company in the association is C. O. Stray & Co., of Christianssand, which owns 39 vessels of 69,484 tons.

Free Port—War Taxes.

The question of a free port in Norway is receiving some attention at present and Stavanger has been mentioned as the one most suitable for the purpose because of its favorable position and proximity to the British coal districts. Norway's largest dry dock is at present being constructed at Stavanger and additional railway facilities will establish connection between Stavanger and Christiania.

The Norwegian Government has imposed the following war taxes on shipping profits for 1916-17 to meet the extraordinary internal expenses caused by the war:

- 5 per cent on the first 5,000 crowns (\$1,340).
- 7½ per cent on the next 10,000 crowns (\$2,680).
- 10 per cent on the next 15,000 crowns (\$4,020).
- 12½ per cent on the next 20,000 crowns (\$5,360).
- 15 per cent on the next 25,000 crowns (\$6,700).
- 17½ per cent on the next 30,000 crowns (\$8,040).
- 20 per cent on any excess profit.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of vacance.	Address.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Do.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlain, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana..	.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay..	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon..	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany....	...do	Do.

* Owing to the late arrival of Mr. Spahr in this country, his conferences in New York with those inter-
ested in the Uruguayan trade will be held from October 22 to November 1.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA TRADE CONDITIONS.

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Australia.]

The fact that 21 American commercial travelers were recently registered at one time at one hotel in Adelaide makes it appear unnecessary to say that South Australia deserves more attention on the part of those American firms that are trying to secure Australian business, yet this is sound advice.

American firms are too often prone to think that representation in Sydney means distribution throughout Australia. This position needs qualification. Sydney is undoubtedly the chief commercial center and, besides, is the terminal port for the passenger steamship lines from San Francisco and Vancouver, but the local transportation situation has prevented it from assuming a position as the general distributing point for the whole of Australia. High railway freight rates in Australia make it more economical to ship overseas cargo direct to ports of entry in the various States. Queensland, a very large State in area, has three distinct ports of entry, Townsville, Rockhampton, and Brisbane. Sydney serves for New South Wales, Melbourne for Victoria, Adelaide for South Australia, and Perth for West Australia.

South Australia, although not nearly so large as the States of West Australia and Queensland, is some 50 per cent larger than Texas. The population of the State of South Australia, corrected to the year 1914, is 441,690, or about one-tenth the population of Texas. Only 2 per cent of the land of the State is under cultivation, including land in fallow and permanent artificially sown grass. Large areas of grazing land are also used for sheep. South Australia has, however, only slightly over 4,000,000 sheep, or about 5 per cent of the total of the Commonwealth.

South Australia is noteworthy as the gateway to the principal mining industry. Broken Hill, although in the southwest corner of New South Wales, is reached by rail from South Australia. The New South Wales State Railways will soon be extended to Broken Hill, but the easiest access is via South Australia. The Broken Hill mines are large producers of lead, silver, and zinc concentrates. Concentrates are shipped from Broken Hill to Port Pirie, South Australia, which is on tidewater, where part of the smelting is done. There are also important copper mines at Wallaroo, South Australia.

South Australia has also made good headway as a producer of fruits and wines, and is an important grower of wheat.

Adelaide the State's Distributing Center.

Adelaide, which controls the distributing trade of the big back country and of the rich mining districts, is a prosperous city, with a population of 200,000 within a radius of 10 miles of the Town Hall. It is typical of Australia that 45 per cent of the population of this State should be centered in the capital city. The wholesale merchants in Adelaide are principally interested in South Australia and Broken Hill. Some of the firms go over into western Victoria, but this is not common because there seems to be a sort of "gentlemen's agreement" to the effect that Adelaide firms cover South Australia and Melbourne firms Victoria. Several South Australian firms have interests in West Australia, but this business is usually handled by branch houses in Perth.

Some of the large Australian wholesale firms have branch establishments in each of the capital cities. The branch in Adelaide, however, may not do exactly the same type of business as the branch in Melbourne or Sydney. The Adelaide branch devotes itself as much to its own market as though it were a separate firm. The principal reason why several great companies have grown up with practically autonomous branches in each capital city is because there is economy in running a common buying branch in London. Some of these organizations have buying offices in London with over a hundred expert buyers on their staffs, who purchase direct from British mills and sometimes from American mills.

Many manufacturers' agents, representing British and American firms, with offices in Sydney or Melbourne, take their samples over to Adelaide several times a year and spend a couple of weeks there. Commercial travelers from the United States will also find it good policy to visit Adelaide and show their samples to local buyers. The leading wholesalers always welcome an opportunity to see something new, and they like to talk with a representative from the head office who knows his line and who is interested in meeting the needs of the local trade.

Adelaide may be comfortably reached from Sydney with the loss of only one business day. The express train that leaves Sydney at 8 p. m. arrives in Melbourne at 1 p. m. the next day; connection may be made with the Adelaide express, which leaves Melbourne at 4.30 p. m. daily and reaches Adelaide about 10 a. m. the next morning. Berths on the sleeper should be reserved some time in advance. It is also possible to go from Sydney to Melbourne or Adelaide by the Royal Mail boats en route to England, or by excellent coastwise steamers. The time taken by boat is somewhat longer than by rail, but the traveling is more comfortable.

Some travelers who wish to study the market make the trip to Broken Hill. This is a night's journey. It is usually better to visit the wholesale firms in Adelaide first and take letters of introduction from them to their branch managers in Broken Hill. Unintroduced, a man is not quickly taken up in this vigorous mining town.

The Government as a Buyer—General Trade Situation.

The city of Adelaide has been very successful in conducting municipal enterprises. All the meat consumed by 200,000 people must be slaughtered in the municipal abattoirs, the Municipal Tramway Trust operates the city and suburban electric lines, there is also a Municipal Harbor Trust, and the city operates the usual public utilities. The State Government of South Australia, which is located in Adelaide, is likewise interested in business matters, such as irrigation, grain elevators, and railway extensions. American firms desiring to put in tenders for various supplies called for by the city or State undertakings would do well to secure the cooperation of Adelaide firms in close touch with local conditions.

South Australia suffered much from the drought in 1914 and by the inability to secure shipping space to take away its raw products during 1915. While the drought reduced the number of sheep, prospects for the coming wool season are good. The mining industry has improved, although four of the 11 mines at Broken Hill are still

closed down. The banks have plenty of money available for loans. On the whole, there is a very fair demand for imported goods.

Great difficulty has been experienced in securing the prompt filling of orders. The time required to place an order in the United States and get the goods is now 10 months instead of 5 months as formerly; it is even more difficult to get goods out from England; hence Japanese goods have been making rapid headway in this market, since they are cheap and the deliveries are fairly frequent.

Merchants complain that American manufacturers fail to comply with the Trade Descriptions Act and other regulations. [A monograph by Commercial Attaché Kennedy, entitled "Exporting to Australia; Practices and Regulations to be Observed by American Shippers" and known as Miscellaneous Series No. 45, is soon to be issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. This booklet will contain the Trade Descriptions Act and other trade regulations just referred to. Due notice of its publication will be given in COMMERCE REPORTS.] These practices and regulations should be given studious attention. Some of the large firms are now anxious to form direct connections with American manufacturers. It is a favorable time to take up matters for the future.

Exports and Imports.

The returns for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, which are the latest published, show a great falling off in both imports and exports. Since the customs returns have recently been compiled on the basis of the fiscal year beginning July 1 instead of for the calendar year, the best available comparison is that of the calendar year 1913 with the fiscal year 1915. This avoids overlapping.

Over-sea exports from South Australia dropped from \$47,595,540 for the calendar year 1913 to \$17,226,925 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915. A serious drop occurred in the export of metals, silver and lead concentrates declining from \$6,910,030 to \$830,550, zinc concentrates from \$8,675,675 to \$2,616,015, and copper from \$1,515,115 to \$427,680. Silver shipments fell from \$2,603,235 to \$1,533,610. The export of gold from South Australia is negligible. There was an increase in the value of lead exported from \$788,090 to \$1,012,740.

The drought occasioned a serious decline in the sales of wheat and flour. In 1913 the value of the wheat exported was \$11,892,405, in 1915 it was \$789,740. In 1913 the value of the flour exported was \$1,962,295, and in 1915 \$400,185. Trade in sheep, wool, and leather decreased fully one-third.

Although the total exports for the fiscal year 1915 were little more than one-third those for the calendar year 1913, imports declined only from \$35,712,930 to \$23,086,755. The rate of decline was fairly evenly balanced among the different articles imported. Receipts of iron and steel, machinery, and timber dropped off a little more than the general average, while other important articles, such as apparel, paper, vehicles, and bags and sacks, showed a smaller proportional shrinkage.

Manufacturing in South Australia.

Every establishment having four or more employees engaged in manufacturing or repairing articles, or a similar establishment employing less than four hands where power-driven machinery is used,

is classed in the returns as a factory. In 1914 there were in South Australia 1,323 factories, employing 26,874 workmen. The principal lines of manufacture with number of workmen employed were as follows:

	Employees.
Metal works, machinery, etc., including Government and tramway shops	7, 986
Clothing, textile fabrics, etc.	4, 721
Food, drink, etc.	3, 699
Woodworking	1, 568
Books, paper, printing	1, 824
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, etc.	1, 445
Stone, clay, and glass	1, 404
Furniture	950

A distinctive feature of the manufacturing industry in South Australia is its close interrelation with merchandising. The leading wholesale establishments own, either outright or in part, the factories that supply particular commodities in which they deal. The wholesale hardware establishments, for example, are directly interested in iron and metal shops, where all sorts of tinware and heavier articles are made. The wholesale dry-goods establishments manufacture, either in their own warehouses or through subsidiary manufacturing firms, men's and women's clothing, men's and women's hats, shoes, shirts, neckties, rugs, and leather goods. The wholesale grocery firms in the same way are interested in tea blending, coffee roasting, packing of self-raising flour, packing of essences, and the manufacture of jams, paints, tobacco, and confectionery. Other important industries are the making of harness, furniture, and bodies for tramcars and automobiles.

NEW BRAZILIAN ABATTOIR OFFERED FOR LEASE.

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Sept. 18.]

On December 15 tenders will be opened by the mayor of Pernambuco for the lease of the new municipal slaughterhouse, said to be one of the largest and finest in South America. A translation of the call for tenders, which gives in full the terms of the contract to be signed with the successful bidder, is forwarded herewith [and may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 81234].

In view of the importance to manufacturers in the United States of the leasing and operation of this new abattoir by an American company the Pernambuco consulate hopes that interested firms will not delay in communicating with Dr. Moraes Rego, Perfeito do Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Correspondence should be in Portuguese.

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NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1820 Iberian Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

MINING AND AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

[Consul George E. Chamberlin, Georgetown, Aug. 24.]

A report on mining and agriculture just issued by the Department of Lands and Mines of British Guiana covers the period from April 1 to December 31, 1915, a change having been made in the financial year to coincide with the calendar year. The financial year heretofore ended on March 31.

The production of gold during the nine months was 39,793 ounces, a decrease of 12,397 ounces as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. This decrease was traceable chiefly to the Mazaruni district, the fields situated on the Kaburi creek yielding 10,283 ounces less than in 1914. The rich alluvial deposits there have been exhausted. The Cuyuni district showed a decreased output of 2,515 ounces, the Barima 860 ounces, and the Essequibo 228 ounces. There were slight increases in production in the Barama and Puruni districts. Two large nuggets were found, one weighing 22 ounces, 18 pennyweight, 8 grains, and the other 17 ounces, 18 pennyweight.

Exodus into Venezuela from Gold Fields.

The warden of No. 5 mining district (Barima and Barama) reported as follows:

I regret to have to report that the gold industry in Barima and Barama has steadily declined during the past nine months, as with the exception of a find of valuable quartz reefs at Barama Head no new finds have been made, and there can be no doubt that the proximity of the claims located here to Cuyuni and Venezuela caused a number of tributers who were at work on claims to spread out and search for new fields, with the result that there has been a perfect exodus from the district, and a consequent mad rush also from Morawhanna and Georgetown over the boundary into Venezuela, where rich finds are said to have been made.

In other parts of the gold fields of the colony surface washing was also carried on with the "sluice and tom," but fewer persons were engaged in the gold industry, many men having returned to the coast lands and taken up agriculture or gone to the balata tracts.

Prospecting, Claims, and Mining Privileges.

During the nine months 274 prospecting licenses were taken out. This compares favorably with the number issued during previous normal years. A fair amount of prospecting was done, but no new fields were located. There were 165 claim licenses issued, and this does not compare favorably with the number issued during the last nine months of the preceding two years. Claim licenses revoked numbered 404, leaving in existence on the Department's registers December 31, 1915, a total of 1,247 gold claims, and 21 precious-stone claims.

Mining privileges issued during the period to tributers numbered 1,389. There were 1,723 mining laborers' registration certificates issued by the Department under the provisions of the Employers' and Laborers' Ordinance, as compared with 2,109 during the corresponding period of last year.

The output of diamonds for the nine months was 19,461 stones weighing 3,678½ carats, and estimated to be worth \$36,782. The average was 5.3 stones to the carat, a decided improvement on the size of the stones found in 1914-15, of which the average was 7.3 to the carat. Three large stones were declared weighing 8½, 7½ and 3½ carats respectively.

Boring Operations to Be Commenced.

Three exploration licenses under the mining (mineral oil) regulations for tracts in the northwestern district were in existence on December 31. The holder of one of these exploration areas applied for a prospecting license, and at the close of the year arrangements had been made to import well-boring apparatus, which arrived in the colony early in 1916 and was shortly afterwards transported to the locality where it is expected boring operations will be commenced. The holders of the two other tracts did nothing in the way of exploration, but it is understood that they are jointly interested in the boring plant mentioned.

No active prospecting or mining operations for bauxite were carried on during the period under review. Rights have been acquired from individuals by American and other interests to the lands on both banks of the Demerara River, extending from "Old England" upward, and on December 31 these interests had purchased 14,860 acres of such lands, and acquired mining rights over a further area of 6,065 acres.

Agricultural Conditions and Prospects.

In agriculture, the area under sugar was 75,744 acres, an increase of 2,586 acres over the preceding year. The area under rice has largely increased in the past three years, the estimated total being 50,734 acres in 1915, 47,037 in 1914, and 35,600 acres in 1913. The 1916 area will greatly exceed that of last year. Extensive areas on the Abary, Mahaicony, and Mahaica Rivers are now under this cereal, and the tendency is to take up more of the available Crown land for this purpose.

On December 31, 1915, there were in existence 13 permissions for grazing cattle on the Rupununi and Takutu savannahs. Ten of these were for 50 square miles each, 2 for 42, and 1 for 2. The number of cattle on these ranches was estimated at 12,500. Cattle raising is also successfully carried on on the coastal savannahs, the Abary Cattle Ranch Co. having more than 2,000 head of all ages.

The royalty collected on balata during the nine months amounted to \$23,793. This industry suffered severely at the commencement of the war, but had recovered by the beginning of April, 1915, and bleeding operations were pursued during the balance of the year as heretofore.

Balata, Rubber, and Timber Exports.

The quantity of balata exported during the nine months was 1,188,807 pounds, which was 41,394 pounds in excess of the total production for the preceding 12 months.

Rubber exports during the nine months amounted to 3,778 pounds, against 1,932 pounds during the financial year 1914-15. All was collected from *Hevea brasiliensis* trees on private properties. The estimated area under rubber at the end of the year was 4,687 acres.

A large local demand for green-heart timber was shown and good prices were obtained. The quantity of timber of all kinds exported was only 76,437 cubic feet, on account of the difficulty experienced by merchants in obtaining the necessary shipping facilities for conveying the timber abroad. The exports for the preceding financial year were 176,668 cubic feet.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Machinery, No. 22744.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a man in his district is in the market for a machine for making Panama hats from "bonbonaja" fiber. A sample of the fiber may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 80013.)

Tinfoil, No. 22745.—An American consular officer in Spain writes that a prominent importing house in his district wishes to import tinfoil from the United States as well as secure the agency for Spain of American manufacturers of that article. Correspondence in English. Reference.

Paper, No. 22746.—A manufacturer of paper goods in Egypt desires quotations on crêpe paper, similar to sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 159.)

Machinery, No. 22747.—A business man in Venezuela informs an American consular officer of his desire to receive catalogues of machines for hemming handkerchiefs.

Plassava, No. 22748.—An American consular officer in Argentina transmits the name of a firm in his district which desires to receive quotations c. i. f. destination, on 5,000 kilograms of plassava, similar to a sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 80214.) The plassava must have a length of 26 and 30 centimeters (10.34 and 11.81 inches). All shipments payable against drafts and documents, destination. Reference. Correspondence in English.

Stationery, bookbinders' supplies, etc., No. 22749.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a commercial organization in Siberia which reports a demand in that district for paper, stationery and bookbinders' supplies of all kinds, including ink, pencils, and erasers, etc.; materials used in the manufacture of soap; pharmaceutical products; knitted goods, hosiery and footwear for women and children. Quotations c. i. f. port of destination, and samples where possible are desired. The organization also recommends a man capable of acting as representative for American manufacturers.

Flower seeds and plants, No. 22750.—A firm in Brazil informs an American consular officer of its desire to receive catalogues of flower seeds and living plants, especially roses, pinks, and dahlias of all kinds. Catalogues may be in English but Spanish is preferred. Correspondence in Portuguese, if possible.

Snap fasteners, No. 22751.—An American consular officer in the Far East transmits the name of a firm in his district which is in the market for patent metal buttons, or snap fasteners, sample of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 80645.)

Chairs, No. 22752.—The manager of a motion picture agency in France informs an American consular officer of his desire to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers for the purchase of from 1,300 to 1,500 wooden or iron chairs. Quotations, c. i. f. destination, if possible. Correspondence in French. Reference.

Optical goods, No. 22753.—An American consular officer in Denmark writes that a man in his district is in the market for optical goods of all descriptions. Correspondence in English.

Furniture, notions, etc., No. 22754.—A wholesale and retail firm in East Africa informs an American consular officer that it wishes to receive catalogues showing bedsteads, both wooden and metal, cameras, novelties such as combs, clocks, hairpins, mirrors, etc., oilcloth, rugs, safety razors, window trimmings, and wrist watches selling from \$1 to \$3.

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No. 248 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 21 1916

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FORECAST OF SPANISH OLIVE CROP.

[Cablegram from the American vice consul at Barcelona.]

No official estimate yet of Spanish olives and oil production, but consensus of opinion of growers having investigated carefully appears that harvest may yield 35 to 40 per cent of crop last year. Andalusia reports about one-third production, Aragon 60 per cent. Tortosa 35 per cent. Present estimates subject to change materially with climatic conditions, as fruit is still largely ungathered.

SIZE OF FRENCH NEWSPAPERS REDUCED.

[American Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Sept. 25.]

To help relieve the paper crisis from which France has been suffering for several months, an important organization of French newspapers known as the "Groupement des Intérêts Économiques de la Presse Quotidienne Française," recently adopted a resolution by which it was agreed that the size of the papers should be reduced by one-half twice each week. The organization asked the Government, by a unanimous vote, to make this arrangement compulsory by law, and to enforce it upon all daily newspapers throughout France, whatever their present size or price. The publisher of the Oeuvre, one of the smaller Paris dailies, estimates that at the present price of newsprint paper this arrangement will represent a saving of 1,000,000 francs per month in the expenditures of the newspapers affected. Several of the Paris papers and of the provincial dailies, however—especially the evening papers—for some time have been appearing with only one sheet or two pages.

New Turkish Import and Export Company.

The name of a firm recently organized in Smyrna to conduct a general import and export business, on commission and for its own account, has been forwarded by Consul General George Horton, of that Turkish city, and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80588.

HONGKONG'S RATTAN-FURNITURE SALES IN AMERICA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 11.]

The increase in the exports of rattan furniture from Hongkong to the United States in the past few months, even beyond that large volume it had reached last year as compared with previous years, is a notable feature of the present trade situation. Normally the cost of a rattan or sea-grass chair delivered c. i. f. American port is substantially twice its cost in Hongkong. With the much higher freight rates of the past year and a half this addition to the cost for Americans has been doubled or trebled, and in some instances quadrupled. At the same time the increase in the exchange value of silver has added 25 per cent to the original cost in Hongkong, in terms of gold, and the price of the rattan materials also has greatly increased. In spite of all these drawbacks the trade in the finished furniture, as well as in rattan and other materials, has constantly grown, and the demand for the goods now seems greater than ever.

Exports of Wood and Manufactures of Wood.

The exports to the United States of wood and manufactures of wood, of which such goods form the greater portion, advanced from \$178,389 in 1914 to \$317,176 in 1915 and in spite of special drawbacks during the earlier months of the current year amounted to \$152,375 for the first six months of the current year, compared with \$136,243 for the corresponding period of the preceding year. When the freight and other expenses of getting the goods to the United States are added, the value of the business reaches a substantial figure.

A large proportion of the rattan and sea-grass furniture now being shipped to the United States is made to order according to designs and specifications furnished by American importers. The prospective purchasers also have been sending to Hongkong certain metal parts used for strengthening the frames. Much of the output receives the finishing processes, including more or less upholstery, in the United States.

Cheapness of Labor an Important Factor.

Some efforts have been made to ship pieces of such furniture partially "knocked down," but little success so far has attended such efforts. The cheapness of labor here renders it possible to ship furniture in spite of almost prohibitive freight rates, and any material deviation from the free use of this cheap labor is likely to be fraught with difficulties. Since so large a share of the work here is hand labor, too, it is possible to vary designs and finishing in a way that is desirable in this class of furniture. Lower freight rates would result in giving a great impulse to the industry in Hongkong, and a large increase in shipments of such goods to the United States, where retail prices now obtained are so great compared with original costs here.

[An article on the rattan-furniture industry at Hongkong was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Mar. 28, 1916.]

Burma exported 2,136 tons of tungsten ore in the first nine months of the current year, against 1,520 tons in the like period of 1915.

INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY IN BRITISH EDUCATION.

[Consul Augustus H. Ingram, Bradford, England, Sept. 27.]

The impetus that the war has given to various chemical industries has shown that in the near future there will be a great demand for highly trained industrial chemists. Accordingly the Bradford Technical College has prepared a comprehensive scheme to afford a broad and sound training for students preparing to enter the chemical industries, especially dyeing and textile chemistry. A pamphlet issued by the Bradford education committee gives particulars as to the courses that may be taken by students, the fees that are payable, the cost of books, etc., and also cites examples of appointments secured by students of the Bradford Technical College. It states that there is likely to be an increasing field in analytical work for women.

For appointment to a position as an industrial chemist, a degree in chemistry from some university, a day diploma of one of the higher technical colleges, or the associateship of the Institute of Chemistry is required.

Attendance, Cost, and Subjects Studied.

The day-diploma course at the Bradford Technical College extends over four college sessions, September to July, and necessitates attendance $5\frac{1}{2}$ days per week throughout the session. The fees are \$30.66 per term, or \$81.76 per session of three terms. The average cost of books, instruments, chemical weights, etc., to each student is approximately \$7.30 per session, but is generally heavier during the first year than in subsequent sessions. Several scholarships are available for students from the city and surrounding district, covering the whole of the college fees, and in addition a grant-in-aid may be awarded to Bradford students to enable them to attend. The college diploma is awarded to students who have attended three complete sessions subsequent to the entrance examination, and who have passed the college examination in all subjects of the diploma course taken. The subjects for the diploma in chemistry and dyeing are: Inorganic chemistry, physical chemistry, organic chemistry, chemistry of dyestuffs, principles of analysis, technical analysis, chemical calculations, glass working, analysis of dyes and fibers, color matching, dyeing and finishing, structure of yarns and fabrics, mechanics as applied to chemical industries, mechanical drawing, mathematics, physics, practical physics, descriptive electrical engineering, practical chemistry, experimental dyeing, practical dyehouse work, etc.

Work in Other Chemical Industries.

A similar course has been arranged for those who intend to take up work in other chemical industries apart from the textile side, such as oil and soap works, metallurgical, gas engineering, etc.

The college possesses a practical dyehouse, with full-sized machinery, providing opportunities for large-scale dyeing, and combined with this is a finishing plant for completing the commercial treatment given to cloth. In addition to facilities for special experimental and research work, visits to chemical works, gas works, sewage works, tar works, soap works, and dyehouses are arranged, so that students have an opportunity to see processes which have been described in lectures carried out on a manufacturing scale. There

are also special courses in pharmaceutical chemistry, a branch of work which is now offering a continually increasing scope for women.

Appointments Received by the Students.

The following are given as typical examples of appointments now held by men who passed successfully through the college during the past few years: Research chemist in explosives factory, £160 (\$779) per annum; chemist in dye works, £220 (\$1,071) per annum; chemist and assistant manager, £220 (\$1,071) per annum and percentage; chemist in dye works, £240 (\$1,168) per annum; manager of department in large dye works, £250 (\$1,217) per annum; chemist and assistant manager, £260 (\$1,265) per annum; dyer (abroad), £330 (\$1,606) per annum; inside manager of dye works, £500 (\$2,433) per annum; manager of dye works, £500 (\$2,433) per annum and percentage.

In most of these examples the students on leaving the college were appointed at a salary varying from \$7.30 to \$9.73 per week, but their progress is indicated by the fact that several of them left the college within the last five years.

RECORD AMERICAN PURCHASES OF CHILEAN WOOL.

[Consul David J. D. Myers, Punta Arenas, Aug. 31.]

On account of the scarcity of available cargo space the first shipment of the season's wool was not made until January 10. For the same reason, the last shipments from the freezing works of sausage casings and sheepskins were delayed until July 8. During this period there were invoiced at the Punta Arenas consulate for exportation to the United States: Wool, unwashed, 9,466 bales, weighing 5,413,008 pounds, valued at \$2,017,939; sausage casings, 670 barrels, weighing 147,400 pounds, valued at \$91,070; and sheepskins, dried, 3,833 bales, weighing 2,356,818 pounds, valued at \$642,583. The total value of these cargoes is \$2,751,592—a sum that, although covering but seven months, exceeds all previous records. There were no shipments for the United States invoiced at this consulate during the calendar year 1911; in 1912 the declared exports were valued at \$15,432; in 1913, at \$27,087; in 1914, at \$20,043; and in 1915, at \$1,425,731.

There was, as stated, considerable difficulty met with in securing cargo space for last season's products, notwithstanding the fact that numerous steamers en route to the United States called at this port with unfilled holds. Such vessels were usually under charter with ores and nitrates, and consequently the master and agents were not interested in loading to capacity. It is to be hoped that such will not occur with the coming season's products, and that shipowners and charterers will make arrangements in advance for filling any space that may be available when the vessel reaches Punta Arenas.

Competition will be greater for the coming season's clip than ever before, so that American buyers contemplating a trip here should arrive not later than the 1st of December if they desire to secure the greatest benefits from being on the ground. It is predicted that the coming season's clip will amount to about 25,000,000 pounds, while a large number of the Argentine ranches are also best dealt with through this port.

[A review of the Chilean wool trade appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Mar. 16, 1916.]

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

AUSTRALIA.

[Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 21.]

Use of Term "Sardine."

An order issued by the Department of Trade and Customs, under date of July 13, 1916, states that the term "sardine" is not a generic expression which can lawfully be applied to any small fish prepared and packed in oil in tins, but can lawfully be applied only to the immature pilchard. In the case of canned fish imported into Australia on and after March 1, 1917, the word "sardine" may be used only as above indicated.

BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 28.]

Forwarding of Samples by Parcel Post.

It should be noted by American firms sending samples to Brazil by mail or parcel post that unless the article is of exceedingly small value and utterly unsalable, it is of no use to mark it "sample without value" (*amostra sem valor*), as it will be subject to duty like any ordinary shipment and will probably be abandoned by the Brazilian addressee unless he has some particular interest in obtaining it. In any case this method of forwarding samples would prove highly inconvenient to him, for he must go several times to the post office and sometimes wait several hours, and is obliged to go through certain necessary formalities which require almost as many documents as are necessary in connection with a regular shipment. Where a sample article is mailed to a Brazilian customer or prospective customer, there is absolutely no way of avoiding the payment of certain charges, and it is but natural to suppose that these fees will not be cheerfully paid by persons who have not requested that the sample be sent them.

It would be well for American firms to abandon entirely in international trade the traditional American process of distributing samples indiscriminately to persons whose names they have obtained from some consulate or from some printed trade list in the United States. They should first enter into correspondence with the foreign firms, describing their articles and suggesting that they will be glad to send samples later, and when the samples are then forwarded they should advise their correspondent.

Forwarding of Samples in Bulk.

Another way of distributing large quantities of samples in Brazil is for the exporting firm to consign them to a customs broker (*despachante*) or other agent in Rio de Janeiro, who will clear the shipment, pay all charges, and have the various packages delivered, by mail or otherwise, to their destinations in Brazil. The Companhia Expresso Federal of Rio de Janeiro (Rua da Alfandega 48), which has the local agency of the American Express Company, Adams Express Company, and Wells Fargo Express Company, will undertake contracts of this kind and is reported to render satisfactory service.

[A notice regarding the forwarding of samples to Argentina by parcel post was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 1, 1916.]

CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Kenna, Valparaiso, Aug. 7.]

Labeling of Pharmaceutical Products.

According to the new customs tariff of Chile, drugs and pharmaceutical products must have their formulas printed on the label under penalty of payment of double import duty (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 29, 1916). Failure to observe this requirement has caused the detention of many consignments by the customs officials, resulting in a shortage of such products in the Chilean market. The Chamber of Deputies on August 5, 1916, accordingly passed a law authorizing the admission of preparations not complying with the new regulations for a period of six months.

[According to a later report a law was passed on Aug. 31, postponing until Jan. 1, 1917, the application of the tariff provision regarding the printing of formulas of imported drugs and pharmaceutical products.]

CANADA.

[Appraiser's Bulletin No. 1335, July 19.]

Liability of Certain Glass to Dumping Duty.

According to a ruling of the Commissioner of Customs, rough-rolled wired glass and plain sheet window glass are held to be articles of a class or kind made in Canada, and, as such, are liable to dumping duty if consignments are invoiced to Canadian importers at a price less (by more than 5 per cent) than the fair market price in the country of exportation. Plain ribbed or plain rough-rolled glass are, however, considered at present to be of a kind not produced in commercial quantities in Canada and are consequently not subject to dumping duty.

[The Canadian antidumping regulations are set forth in detail in Tariff Series No. 24 (Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries, Canada, and Latin America), copies of which are for sale for 10 cents each by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, or at the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

PORTUGAL.**Commercial Treaty with Great Britain.**

The Portuguese *Diario do Governo* for August 28, 1916, publishes the text of the commercial treaty between Portugal and Great Britain which came into effect September 23, 1916. Under this agreement the conventional rates of the Portuguese customs tariff are extended to articles imported into Portugal from the United Kingdom, and increased British competition in the Portuguese market is now to be expected in the case of certain important products, including motor vehicles and tires, pharmaceutical products, agricultural implements, artisans' tools, etc. Imports from the United States have for some years been admitted into Portugal at the lower rates.

SWITZERLAND.

[Recueil des Lois Suisses, Sept. 8.]

Marking of Gold and Silver Articles.

A decree of the Swiss Federal Council of September 8, 1916, in effect October 1, provides that the words "gold" and "silver," or their abbreviations or equivalents in any language, shall not be used

on jewelry of any kind, including watches, without a further statement of fineness, unless the articles are made of gold of at least 14 karats (0.583 fine), or of silver at least 0.800 fine. Watchcases bearing the word "gold" or "silver," without qualification, are subject to official inspection, and jewelry and similar articles bearing these words without a statement as to fineness should bear the mark of the manufacturer or dealer.

NEW LAW ENCOURAGES GERMAN TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

[Consul Alfred W. Donegan, Magdeburg, Sept. 7.]

The law of July 1, 1916, increasing the domestic tax and import duty on tobacco, not only has for its object the production of a larger revenue but is also intended to act as a direct inducement to a greater tobacco cultivation in Germany. The old law of July 15, 1909, failed to provide the intended protection in sufficient measure to affect the domestic cultivation of tobacco favorably. The share of the total tobacco consumption furnished by the domestic production actually decreased from 26 per cent in 1906-1909 to 24 per cent in the years following. Average prices for domestic raw tobacco also failed to advance, except in 1910 when a temporary rise occurred.

The new law provides an increase in the internal tax on leaf tobacco of domestic production from 28.50 marks to 35 marks per German hundredweight (\$6.15 to \$7.56 per 100 pounds) and an increase in the import duty on foreign leaf tobacco from 42.50 marks to 65 marks per German hundredweight (\$9.17 to \$14.03 per 100 pounds), plus an ad valorem duty which is increased from 40 per cent to 65 per cent. The additional burden represents in round figures one-fourth of the former tax on domestic tobacco and three-fourths of the old tax and duty on imported tobacco. Far greater protection is thus afforded the domestic industry by the new law than was the case under the old law.

In German tobacco-growing circles it is now assumed that, in view of the present extraordinarily high prices for over-sea tobacco, the German cigar industry will be inclined to use domestic tobacco to a greatly increased extent, and that the heavier demand will necessarily cause an advance in the price of domestic tobacco. Herein lies a strong inducement for farmers to expand the cultivation of tobacco in Germany, especially as the product has proven a valuable link in crop rotation. The intent of the law in this respect will therefore probably be accomplished.

INCREASED NICARAGUAN IMPORTS FOR HALF YEAR.

[Consul John A. Gamon, Corinto, Sept. 25.]

The duties collected on merchandise imported into Nicaragua during the first half of 1916 amounted to \$425,410, as against \$313,515 for the like period of 1915. The Nicaraguan customs service uses 27 as the figure expressing the ratio between its collections and the value of the dutiable and nondutiable imports. On this basis the import trade of the Republic during January-June of the current year amounted to \$1,575,600, contrasted with a total of \$1,161,165 for the corresponding months of 1915.

RETAIL DRY-GOODS TRADE OF BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

The Brazilian trade may be said to have drawn almost exclusively upon Paris in the past for its finer dry goods, lingerie, and "confections." This applies to the better-class shops; those that cater to a popular and cheaper trade have naturally handled, besides, a great deal of other merchandise, much of it German and Austrian. In an interesting interview with the proprietors of one of the largest and best known of the higher-grade shops of Rio de Janeiro the following information was obtained. It is interesting because it is typical of the situation in the best class of retail shops, not only in Brazil, but throughout Latin America.

The house caters exclusively to women of the aristocratic and wealthy classes. It deals in dry goods, lingerie, bonnets, "confections," tailor-made suits, gloves, veils, laces, mesh purses, and "notions" generally. Each of these departments is under a skillful forewoman, usually a Frenchwoman who has had training in a good Paris shop of the same class. The house finds it difficult to add to its line and has recently had an experience with women's boots and shoes, where it found that its average feminine customer clung to her own bootmaker, even though she had abandoned her former milliner and tailor to give her custom to this large department store.

Novelty the First Requisite—Private Salon Trade.

The woman of the wealthier classes has usually traveled much in Europe and is ready to spend proportionately more money than her sisters of other nations would for the same article. She is sensitive about purchasing anything that has been for more than a week or two on exhibition in the window, and she is proportionately proud to be able to seize upon some model that has "just arrived by the last ship." Under these circumstances the shop is obliged to charge high prices, since it finds that it has to suffer a heavy loss in the class of goods whose novelty has begun to wear off.

One or two of the larger shops of Rio de Janeiro have contemplated opening smaller shops, under other names, in quarters of the city removed from the main shopping thoroughfare, in the hope of finding there an outlet for those goods that, though of excellent quality and style, have palled on the public eye in their principal store on the avenida. For some reason or other, however, the majority of the larger shops here find it preferable, when merchandise has once lost its first attraction to the fashionable trade, to remove their firm label from the article and to sell it at a reduced price to persons who make a business of traveling through the large towns of the interior, where they sell such goods as being of the latest mode abroad and at very high prices.

Much individual trade in women's fashionable millinery, dry goods, etc., is still done in Rio de Janeiro by clever women, who make two or three trips a year to Paris and, returning to Rio de Janeiro, take rooms at some smart hotel and cater to a private clientele without being subjected to the usual retail licenses. Such women, popularly known here from their frequent goings and coming as "andorinhas" (i. e., swallows), cater to the very wealthiest and most fashionable classes, and they have repeatedly aroused the protests of merchants and commercial associations.

Opening for North American Wares.

Returning to the Rio de Janeiro house first mentioned, it is particularly interesting to note that its business since 1914 has practically doubled. This is due to the large number of wealthy Brazilians who used to live in Paris or some other European capital and spend their incomes there, and who, owing to the European war and the increased taxation abroad, have now returned to their native land. (The same is true of most of the countries of Latin America.)

This firm, like most of its class in Rio de Janeiro, has dealt almost exclusively with Paris and is feeling severely the strain of not being able to have orders promptly or fully executed, owing to the naturally disturbed condition of French manufacturing. It would be glad to deal with the United States because of the steadier supply and the nearer market. The firm has had some dealings with the United States in women's silk stockings and has not been quite satisfied with the quality of the goods. It appears that several large lots were found to be of poor quality, the fabric breaking under slight strain, but it admits that this may have been an accident and is not at all unwilling to sound the North American market further.

The members of the firm state, however, that they can not change the popular taste here, which is inclined to favor French styles, and they seem to have some doubt as to whether the particular chic and smartness which the term "Parisian" implies in South America would be forthcoming from the United States. They are quite positive, however, in their statement that if the New York market could suit them in regard to (1) quality, (2) good taste and variety, and (3) price and credit terms they would be able to deal very extensively. I am told that this firm's orders to Paris amount to something like 1,000,000 francs (\$193,000 United States currency) a year, and that it deals through a commission house there which acts as its buying agent.

SHIPPERS WARNED NOT TO USE MAGAZINES IN PACKING.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Egypt, Sept. 27.]

The Alexandria & Ramleh Railway Co. (Ltd.) calls attention to the inconvenience that may result from possible delay in withdrawing goods from the local customs, on account of the presence in cases containing merchandise of illustrated newspapers and magazines used as packing material. American exporters should be warned against using printed matter of any nature in packing merchandise intended for belligerent countries. An ulterior motive is always suspected when uncensored printed matter comes to a belligerent country through channels other than the public post.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 421 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

ECUADOR INCREASES EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Oct. 2.]

The records of the Guayaquil consulate show that the value of Ecuadorian products shipped from this port to the United States during the quarter ended September 30, 1916, exceeded that of any corresponding quarter in previous years. The exports during the past five years for this quarter have been: In 1912, \$583,839; 1913, \$1,139,738; 1914, \$1,016,009; 1915, \$1,164,655; 1916, \$2,552,979.

The gain has been largely in shipments of cacao, which is the principal article of export and is considered the country's chief source of wealth. The values of these shipments for the five years were: In 1912, \$184,911; 1913, \$952,718; 1914, \$751,441; 1915, \$871,771; 1916, \$2,079,329.

Contract Made by Large American Firm.

A contract recently made by a large American firm to handle the product of the Asociación de Agricultores, the largest factor in the market to-day, accounts for this increase. Most of the shipments are now going to the United States, whereas they formerly went to Germany and the United Kingdom. Within the next week or so another shipment amounting to more than \$1,000,000 will go forward to the United States. A special ship has been chartered to come here for the cacao.

Exports of other commodities for the corresponding quarters were:

Articles.	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Hats, straw.....	\$18,894	\$63,196	\$129,835	\$113,569	\$163,101
Hides.....	29,839	5,604	120,730	66,459	148,864

During the past nine months the total shipments from Guayaquil to the United States amounted to \$5,349,034, whereas the total shipments for the calendar year 1915 amounted to \$5,598,022, so that the total for 1916 will exceed that for 1915 by a considerable amount, as there are three months of this year remaining.

Irish Hay Crop.

Under date of October 2 Consul Hunter Sharp, of Belfast, reports that official estimates of the 1916 hay crop of Ireland place the yield at: First-year hay, 1,077,580 tons from 496,186 acres; second and third year hay, 751,075 tons from 374,080 acres; permanent meadow, 3,496,777 tons of hay from 1,535,981 acres. In 1915 the figures were: First-year hay, 1,010,854 tons from 525,890 acres; second and third year hay, 684,606 tons from 382,968 acres; permanent meadow, 3,401,312 tons from 1,587,071 acres.

A dealer in Lyon, France, has informed Consul J. E. Jones, who placed him in touch with an American exporter of low-priced typewriters, that he has concluded negotiations for an initial supply, and that if these first machines prove satisfactory he will probably order others at intervals.

THIS YEAR'S VINTAGE IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 27.]

Portuguese wine growers and exporters have had unprecedented prosperity during the last two years, due principally to the increased demand for their wines in England and France. Official figures for the exportation of white, red, and port wines in the first three months of this year compared with the like period in 1915 are as follows:

Kind of wine.	1915	1916	Increase.
White.....	\$75,390	\$177,288	\$101,898
Red.....	502,192	1,842,433	840,241
Port.....	838,114	1,439,007	650,893
Total.....	1,415,696	3,008,728	1,593,032

The gain shown is due to a rise in price and also to an increase in the volume exported.

Consular Agent Reviews New-Crop Outlook.

At the request of the Lisbon consulate general Ricardo Spratley, American consular agent at Oporto, has submitted the following interesting report on this year's vintage in Portugal:

It is somewhat difficult to forecast this year's vintage in the North of Portugal. There has been no excessive heat of late, yet the weather has been very dry for weeks, making the grape rather tough, but richly saccharine. One or two days of rain during this or next week would materially alter results.

Taking the whole of Portugal, it is expected that the yield will be about 1,000,000 hectoliters (26,417,000 gallons) above last year's returns, making it one of the largest crops on record. Last year there was an increase of over half a million hectoliters in the wine produced in the northern districts, but this was more than counter-balanced by a falling off of the southern wines, showing a final diminution of 1,355,640 hectoliters, or 35,812,000 gallons, for the whole of Portugal. This is seen from the following comparative table, the figures of which are unofficial but carefully compiled by an acknowledged authority on wine. If the data relating to the first eight districts—i. e., the northern ones as far as Aveiro—only are considered, one notes a production of 37,518,020 gallons in 1915, compared with 22,278,815 gallons in 1914, but the southern wines (south of Aveiro district) were reduced from 103,732,870 gallons to 52,681,665 gallons, or a drop of 51,051,205 gallons.

Districts.	1914	1915	Districts.	1914	1915
	Gallons.	Gallons.		Gallons.	Gallons.
Vila Real.....	1,195,110	3,534,835	Coimbra.....	2,053,130	1,451,985
Braganca.....	1,381,460	1,150,725	Leiria.....	4,395,795	2,203,465
Viana.....	5,086,325	8,302,350	Santarém.....	15,564,925	7,830,015
Guarda.....	1,033,435	1,566,000	Lisboa.....	73,087,710	36,088,890
Vizama de Castello.....	8,227,325	11,847,450	Evora.....	2,869,950	1,240,280
Braga.....	2,537,380	4,637,440	Beja.....	1,690,990	1,723,730
Porto.....	1,788,960	4,034,875	Portalegre.....	402,595	247,255
Aveiro.....	2,248,630	2,834,545	Faro.....	2,684,740	1,468,790
Total, northern districts.....	22,278,815	37,518,020	Total, southern districts.....	103,732,870	52,681,665
Castello Branco.....	243,035	377,235	Grand total.....	126,011,685	90,199,685

Production by Principal Classification.

The above figures represent, respectively, the highest and the lowest vintages since 1910, taking the whole of Portugal. The quantity of each of the four chief grades of wine produced in these two years was:

Classification.	1914	1915
	<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>Gallons.</i>
Generosos (full-bodied).....	7, 676, 530	14, 613, 910
Verdes (green).....	14, 602, 285	22, 904, 105
Maduros (ripe).....	95, 944, 600	48, 789, 120
Alcoolicos (other alcoholic).....	7, 788, 270	3, 862, 550
Total.....	126, 011, 685	90, 199, 685

Prices Unsettled—Brandy Situation.

As to the vintage that is about to begin the general consensus of opinion seems to be:

In the Douro Valley the state of the vines is altogether satisfactory, and the crop will be still larger than last year's and of superior quality. In Minho Province the raw green wine will be somewhat inferior to last year's and the quantity less. The gathering of the grapes has been started in some places, but, generally speaking, the vintage will "open" October 2 to 5, while in vineyards less exposed to the sun the date will be as late as October 15 to 20.

Prices are unsettled so far, especially for celebrated "quintas" (vineyards), excepting those which have permanent contracts with shippers. An average increase of 30 per cent above last year's quotations is noted.

The rise in brandy prices has been unprecedented. Quoted in July, 1915, at \$49 a pipe, it went up to \$112 after last year's vintage and is at present sold at the record figure of \$235 and \$238. Some brandy made of Douro wine has even reached \$280 a pipe. These high prices will have the effect of restricting to one-third of the usual quantity the wine treated for port; the remaining two-thirds will be kept as ordinary table wine, or vinho commum, especially as there is a sure market to be found for it in France.

NEW CHART COVERS PART OF CALIFORNIA COAST LINE.

The Department of Commerce has announced the publication by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey of a new chart No. 5102, San Diego to Point Firmin, Cal., mercator projection, average scale $\frac{221}{150}$ (0.32 inch to the natural mile), dimensions 30½ by 40½ inches; price 50 cents.

This chart, which replaces No. 5100, includes a very important stretch of coast line of the State of California, and equally important water area. Within its limits are the harbors of Los Angeles and San Diego, and offshore are shown the islands of Santa Barbara, Santa Catalina, and San Clemente.

The route of vessels from ports north of Point Conception to Central and South America passes near Cortez Bank, which is delineated in the southwest corner of the chart.

NEW-SEASON GRENOBLE WALNUTS.

[Vice Consul Thomas W. Murton, Grenoble, France, Sept. 15.]

The yield of Grenoble walnuts will doubtless be large this year, as the weather was favorable throughout the season, with the exception of an exceedingly hot and dry spell the latter part of July. The heat at this time was intense enough to cause many trees to lose their leaves, particularly at the top, and all ripening fruit left thus exposed to the scorching rays of the sun naturally suffered to some extent and when harvested may be found to be wormy or imperfectly developed, with the kernels more or less shriveled.

Thunderstorms having been less frequent than usual this year, the damage caused by hail has not been great and was confined, as concerns the Grenoble district, to a few scattered localities. In any case, the opinion is that the loss occasioned thereby will not much affect the total output, which for the whole of France is computed at 27,000 to 28,000 tons of all varieties (both wild and cultivated). Of this quantity the country around Grenoble is expected to furnish some 5,000 tons, all kinds common to the region being taken into account—Mayettes probably amounting to 2,500 tons, Franquettes to 300 tons, Parisiens to 200 tons, and Chabertes (small, for cracking), to 2,000 tons. The first three of these are table nuts. Judging from appearances, Mayettes, or “Grenoble” walnuts, will not be so large as last year’s, but by way of compensation it is anticipated that the current season’s production will be more regular in size and of equally good aspect.

Prices and Freights.

The crop is now nearing maturity and should be ready for harvesting about September 25, or a few days earlier than usual. For various reasons first shipments to the United States will not be advanced in any way on this account. As is customary every year, a few hundred bags of Mayettes, imperfectly dried and prepared, will be shipped about October 15, to reach America in time for the Thanksgiving trade. These shipments rarely give satisfaction,

Buying has already begun on the market here, and operations for forward delivery have been quite brisk of late for both nuts in the shell and shelled halves. Between 2,000 and 3,000 bags of unshelled nuts have been contracted for at prices ranging from 125 to 140 francs per 100 kilos (\$10.95 to \$12.25 per 100 pounds) for October-November shipment, and several hundred cases of the shelled meats (November-December-January, shipment) at 340 to 355 francs per 100 kilos (\$29.75 to \$31.10 per 100 pounds), in cases of 25 kilos (55 pounds) each. Freights from Marseille, to New York per 100 kilos are quoted at 85 francs for bags of 50 kilos, and 66 francs for cases of 25 kilos (respectively equivalent to \$7.45 and \$5.75 per 100 pounds), without guaranty by shipping companies as to date of embarkation. It is thus possible that, as was the case last year, there will be delays in the forwarding of goods sold for delivery at a fixed date.

The prices paid for this year’s walnuts are the highest ever yet received at the beginning of a season, and, in view of the large crop in France, they would seem to denote that an element of speculation pervades the market. Dealers here, it is true, are discounting the

report of diminished crops in California, and many refuse to sell even at present rates in the hope of realizing better ones later. According to information at hand Bordeaux shippers are also maintaining high prices, numerous sales being reported on a parity with the figures quoted above. It is reasonable to suppose that after the crops have been harvested and the quantity and quality of the season's production better known, some change will take place in market conditions.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	Do.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana.....		Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L. a.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..		C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 400, Customhouse, New York City.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany ..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany ..	do	Do.

a Owing to the late arrival of Mr. Spahr in this country, his conferences in New York with those interested in the Uruguayan trade will be held from October 22 to November 1.

AMERICAN INQUIRIES FOR CHINESE TWISTED CORD.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 13.]

American interest has been shown recently in the cheap twisted cord made of native fibers that is commonly used by the Chinese in sewing up matting on bales of reed and similar products. Several inquiries regarding prices, samples, and the possibility of shipments to the United States have been received in Hongkong.

The industry has promising features. The cord is manufactured near Canton, usually in two qualities. These are known in the Hongkong market as No. 1 and No. 2 grades, and are now quoted at \$12.75 and \$11.60 gold, respectively, per picul of 133½ pounds c. i. f. San Francisco. The cord may be obtained in lengths up to 60 yards.

[Samples of the two grades of cord may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81270.]

The United States Geological Survey has available for distribution its annual statement on quicksilver in 1915. The output in the United States during the year is given as 21,083 flasks of 75 pounds each, valued at \$1,826,912.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3709.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 289, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch spark plugs; schedule 290, rubber boots, red, white, and blue watch mark braid, whisk brooms, fiber brushes, shoe brushes (brushes and daubers), 27 ligne white bone buttons, large rubber buttons, watch caps, combs, chief petty officers' cap devices, grommets, jackknives, jerseys, silk handkerchiefs, needles, cap ribbons, gymnasium shoes, 100-yard spools sewing silk, black cotton socks, woolen socks, white cotton thread, Turkish bath towels, and light cotton undershirts; schedule 291, all-metal wagon portable loaders; schedule 292, railroad special tee crossing, railroad frogs and switches, rails, and railroad spikes; schedule 293, automobile ambulance; schedule 294, 220 V. A. C. motors; schedule 295, paint drier, venetian red in oil, sal ammoniac, tallow, and whitening; schedule 296, 8-ply cotton machine thread, 32-inch cotton mattress ticking, hand frame hack-saw blades, carpenters hammers, etc., 1,000-pound folding platform scales, 6-inch by 24-inch brass base safety treads, and sheet lead; schedule 297, engine-room clocks, 20-inch by 48-inch hard sheet rubber, 5 c. p. instrument lamp sockets, and copper pipe; schedule 298, megaphones; schedule 299, 30-inch turkey red twilled muslin and 3-cord linen machine thread; schedule 300, tarred sheathing felt, 15-foot white ash oars, 16-inch long hickory wedges, and galvanized iron or steel buckets; schedule 301, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch portable electric drills, copper burs, 1-gallon paint cans, flathead copper wire nails, flathead copper rivets, brass machine screws, and brass wood screws; schedule 302, 28-inch Turkish toweling; schedule 303, angles brass, bar brass, rod brass, sheet brass, ingot manganese bronze, bar copper, ingot copper, and sheet copper; schedule 304, composition pipe fittings, brass pipe, admiralty metal tubing, and flanged gate valves; schedule 305, interior communication cable, telephone cable, portable double-scale voltmeters, and twin conductor wire; schedule 306, railroad frogs and switches; schedule 307, printing "Blue Jackets' Manual;" schedule 308, steel tolerance plug gauges, reamers, and steel machine screws; schedule 309, steel helical compression springs, copper pipe, steel wire eyes, and flask wrenches; schedule 310, minor caliber tracer fuses, head nets, sleeping nets, and ammonium picrate; schedule 311, lead wire, galvanized-iron pipe, soft sheet copper in strips, and air flask steel forgings; schedule 312, pipe threading machines; schedule 313, rolls 2,000 square foot template paper, white paper for blue-print coating, and composition roller bearing sheaves; schedule 314, repairing roof of building; schedule 315, portable or knock-down house; schedule 316, engine-room and fireroom clocks, steam-driven air compressor, indicators for auxiliary engines, steam siren, and steam whistle; and schedule 317, Class "A" armor plates.

Medical supplies, No. 3710.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until October 23, 1916, for furnishing and delivering $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound tins of ether and $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound tins of chloroform. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Dredging, No. 3711.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1916, for dredging at the naval coal depot (California City Point), Tiburon, Cal. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the commandant of the navy yard, Mare Island, Cal.

The statement of the United States Geological Survey on phosphate rock in 1915 gives the quantity marketed during the year as 1,835,667 long tons, valued at \$5,413,449.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Awning cloth, No. 22755.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports that a firm in his district is in the market for awning cloth for automobiles and carriages. From 5,000 to 10,000 meters of cloth is required for immediate shipment. Sample may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 80655.) Samples of other grades of awning cloth made in the United States are also desired. Correspondence in French.

Cotton thread, No. 22756.—An American consular officer in Belgium writes that a business man in his district desires to purchase for delivery as soon as possible 100,000 kilograms (220,462 pounds) of cotton thread, Nos. 14 and 26.

Truck, No. 22757.—An exporter in Venezuela informs an American consular officer that he is in the market for a truck or tractor of 3 tons capacity or less. Further information may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

Dolls, No. 22758.—An American consular officer in northern Africa writes that a dealer in toys in his district desires to secure catalogues and price lists of dolls. Correspondence in French preferred.

Chemicals, No. 22759.—A manufacturer of chemical products in Spain informs an American consular officer of his desire to import from the United States in wholesale quantities carbamate of magnesia in very light, pure-white powder and oxalic acid. Correspondence in English. References.

Paper and brooms, etc., No. 22760.—The Bureau is in receipt of an inquiry from the United Kingdom for the names of American manufacturers of brooms, twines, paints, enamels, and paper, etc.

Scales, cash registers, etc., No. 22761.—An American consular officer in Argentina transmits the name of a business man in his district who desires to represent American manufacturers of scales and other weighing apparatus, machines for cutting cold meats, coffee percolators, and cash registers. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

Herring, No. 22762.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce at The Hague reports that one of the largest herring exporters in the Netherlands desires to enter into commercial relations with American importers of that article.

Toilet powders, etc., No. 22763.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a firm in his district wishes to receive quotations on face powders and tooth paste. Prices may be made f. o. b. New York and should cover cheap and medium grades. Correspondence in English.

Cotton thread, No. 22764.—A firm in Brazil advises an American consular officer that it is in the market for cotton thread, simple, of colors blue, red, green, yellow, and white. A sample of the thread may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 80455.) Samples should be submitted. Correspondence in Portuguese or French.

Crockery, etc., No. 22765.—A wholesale and retail firm in East Africa informs an American consular officer that it desires to receive catalogues, with prices and discounts given, on biscuits, crockery, chinaware, confectionery, gasoline cooking stoves, hand bags, hair clippers, optical goods, and steel trunks. Merchandise of the cheaper grades is desired.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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IMPORTATION OF BOARDS INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Oct. 20.]

No license is necessary for importation into the United Kingdom of box and case boards.

COTTON CONSUMPTION AND SPINDLES IN UNITED STATES.

Preliminary statistics for the cotton year ended July 31, 1916, made public by the United States Bureau of the Census, show a total consumption in American mills of 6,397,613 bales of cotton and 880,916 bales of linters. The corresponding amounts for the year ended July 31, 1915, were 5,597,362 bales and 411,845 bales, respectively; and for the year ended August 31, 1914, 5,577,408 bales and 307,325 bales, respectively. The consumption of cotton during the cotton year 1916 represented increases of 14.3 per cent and 14.7 per cent as compared with that for the cotton years 1915 and 1914, respectively; and the corresponding percentages of increase for linters were 113.9 and 186.6. The market increase in the consumption of linters is due to the very great increase in the use of this product in the manufacture of explosives.

The number of cotton spindles active during the cotton year 1916 throughout the United States was 32,805,883, representing increases of 2.6 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively, as compared with the corresponding numbers for the cotton years 1915 and 1914.

BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITION ON MANUFACTURES OF IVORY AND CELLULOID.

According to an official notice published in the British Board of Trade Journal for October 5, 1916, manufactures of bone, horn, ivory, and celluloid are subject to import prohibition under the terms of the proclamation of October 3, 1916.

[A notice regarding articles, the importation of which was prohibited by this proclamation, was published in COMMERCE REPORTS Oct. 6, 1916.]

LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONES FOR CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Sept. 12.]

The estimates of material needed for the construction of a long-distance telephone system connecting Santa Cruz de Tenerife, capital of the Canary Islands, with several smaller towns in Tenerife Island have just been completed. The work will require more telephone-construction material than any previous project in these islands.

The longest distance between talking points is figured at 150 kilometers (93.2 miles). The number of instruments expected to be brought into use for long-distance work is 119. The projected telephone line will extend nearly due west from Santa Cruz de Tenerife to the west coast, and then south toward Orotava, Icod, and other towns and villages. The actual construction will be done by the Spanish Government, department of telegraphs, under the direction of the Cabildo Insular de Tenerife. There would seem to be an opportunity for American producers to furnish the bulk of supplies required.

Estimated Quantities of Materials Needed.

The following estimate of material needed was obtained from the official supervising the project (the American equivalents of the metric units being: Kilo=2.2046 pounds, millimeter=0.03937 inch; meter=3.28083 feet, square millimeter=0.00155 square inch):

Silicium-bronze telephone wire: 29,548 kilos of 3.5-millimeter wire (approximately No. 7 Brown & Sharpe gauge); 8,640 kilos of 2-millimeter wire (approximately No. 12 Brown & Sharpe gauge); 2,400 kilos of 1.5-millimeter wire (approximately No. 15 (Brown & Sharpe gauge); 800 kilos of 5-millimeter wire (between Nos. 4 and 5 Brown & Sharpe gauge). The breaking strain of the wire should be tested to 45 kilos per square millimeter.

Porcelain insulators: 4,500 double-petticoat type, with deep groove, 108 to 112 millimeters high; 6,000, same type, 90 millimeters high; 5,000 insulators 20 millimeters high by 20 millimeters long; 2,000 insulators 15 millimeters high by 15 millimeters long; 1,000 insulators 10 millimeters high by 15 millimeters long; 100 porcelain insulating elbows 110 millimeters long; 100 porcelain elbows 120 millimeters long.

Galvanized iron brackets: 4,500 brackets 108 to 112 millimeters high; 6,000 brackets 90 millimeters high. These galvanized brackets should be arranged to carry insulators and should be from rounded bar iron, having a screw end for timber, and should range from 10 to 20 millimeters in diameter, prices being submitted for various grades.

Round galvanized-iron pins for insulators are wanted, carrying two washers 70 millimeters apart, as follows: 3,000 pins of 10-millimeter diameter; 3,000 pins of 12-millimeter diameter.

Insulated copper wire: 145 kilos (equaling approximately 7,480 meters) of wire of 1.5 square millimeters cross section or about 1.4 millimeters in diameter (nearest Brown & Sharpe gauge No. 16). This wire should be insulated with pure rubber, cotton spiral, cotton braid, and weatherproofed with black varnish.

For terminal and house, equipments are wanted: 119 long-distance telephones, magneto call, having two receivers; 4 switchboards, carrying 25 drops for complete metallic circuits (these boards should be of the wall type); 1 switchboard of similar construction for 12 drops; 8 switchboards of similar construction for 8 drops; 300 large cells, covered, of the Leclanche type; 500 lightning arresters and fuse blocks combined.

Competition to be Met.

Wooden telephone poles will be needed for carrying the wires.

The competition to be met is that of the Swedish manufactures. The equipment now in use is of Swedish make, and both the instruments and the line construction are modeled after Swedish ideas.

However, much difficulty has been experienced of late in obtaining telephone material from Sweden, even for maintenance and repair work.

Estimates should be sent to the President of the Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, or to Sr. Juan Ortoll Delmotte, Calle Castillo, Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul G. K. Donald, Maracaibo, Sept. 18.]

Maracaibo has nine large German business houses, five Italian, and two Dutch. There are no American firms doing a general import and export business here, yet it would seem well worth the while of New York commission houses to establish a branch in Maracaibo, since firms of other foreign nationalities have found the venture profitable. In Caracas an American is reported to have made a fortune handling American goods, and with the additional advantage of also doing an export and banking business—which could be worked up very easily here—good results could be obtained. In passing it might be mentioned that not one of the foreign mercantile establishments just referred to uses an adding machine, an addressograph, or a multi-graph, and it is only recently that typewriters have been installed.

In agriculture the possibilities for investment are unlimited. Land can be obtained cheaply for growing cane, cotton, and coffee, and for raising cattle. Sugar sells retail in Maracaibo for about 10 cents a pound.

An earlier report from this office [see Supplement 48b to COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 27, 1915] pointed out the need for an American bank in Maracaibo or one of the interior towns. Since then no American banks have been established, but a new Venezuelan bank (El Banco Comercial) has opened its doors and the Royal Bank of Canada may establish a branch in Maracaibo in the very near future.

Now that automobiles are beginning to appear on the streets, a garage would be welcomed. Among other small investments might be mentioned a steam laundry, modern bakery, ice cream parlor and soda fountain, an "American bar," and what is popularly known as a "Kandy Kitchen." Further, a coffee warehouse and elevator located at some convenient point would not only be a blessing to the exporters (coffee now being stored in residences for lack of a more suitable place), but would also bring good returns to the investor.

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTATION TO NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Oct. 20.]

No further facilities will be granted by the British Government for the exportation of alum and sulphate of alumina to Holland until December 31. Facilities will not be given for calcium carbide, meat and bacon, fish other than canned, and sheepskins to Holland until further notice. Previously announced restrictions on vaseline for Denmark are now canceled. [The announcement of the British policy of limiting exports to Scandinavian countries was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 13. Restrictions on the exportation of vaseline to Denmark were announced in the issue of Oct. 2.]

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS TRADE INCREASES.

[Consul Harry Campbell, Singapore, Sept. 7.]

The official return of imports and exports of the Straits Settlements for the first half of the year ending June 30, 1916, not only indicates large trade increases over the corresponding period of the preceding year but also considerable increases over 1913.

The comparative figures for the corresponding period for the past four years are given below, all values being in United States currency:

Countries.	1913	1914	1915	1916
IMPORTS.				
Singapore.....	\$85,316,949	\$87,250,848	\$87,859,076	\$116,757,305
Penang.....	37,736,032	37,292,536	28,166,828	35,675,186
Malacca.....	2,715,901	2,888,397	3,174,976	5,278,933
Total.....	135,768,885	127,431,781	119,200,880	157,709,424
EXPORTS.				
Singapore.....	73,068,442	67,310,972	79,859,712	107,002,013
Penang.....	33,117,273	32,732,521	27,285,932	34,843,850
Malacca.....	4,178,233	4,692,392	5,938,194	10,345,972
Total.....	110,364,948	104,735,885	113,183,838	152,881,835

Both imports and exports at Penang for 1916 are approximately the same as for 1913, while Singapore and Malakka have in 1916 considerably increased both imports and exports over 1913. The totals for the three Settlements show not only a recovery from the slump of 1914 and 1915, but an actual increase over 1913 of \$21,940,539, or 16 per cent, in imports and of \$42,516,887, or 38 per cent, in exports. Compared with the same period of 1915 there was an increase of \$38,508,544, or 32 per cent, in imports and \$39,697,997, or 35 per cent, in exports.

The following table gives the imports and exports for the six months ending June 30, 1915 and 1916, of the principal items in which there were increases:

Articles.	1915	1916
IMPORTS.		
Chemicals.....	\$213,267	\$690,191
Cigarettes.....	2,055,812	2,441,110
Cotton piece goods, plain, dyed, and printed.....	3,814,091	4,740,596
Cycles, parts and accessories.....	41,331	180,363
Hardware and cutlery, excluding cooking utensils.....	112,163	300,619
Liquid fuel.....	270,566	670,440
Liquors, spirituous.....	997,266	1,159,553
Motor cars, motorcycles, parts and accessories.....	191,320	538,193
Nails, iron.....	137,044	249,708
Paper.....	448,643	697,028
Pepper.....	1,888,865	2,630,270
Petroleum.....	748,361	1,413,530
Rubber.....	11,469,727	30,570,169
Sugar.....	2,700,362	4,017,871
Stationery.....	152,423	215,814
Tools, instruments, and implements.....	104,575	168,007
EXPORTS.		
Pepper.....	2,224,808	2,757,143
Sugar.....	1,762,560	2,224,808
Tin.....	26,692,541	29,311,357
Rubber.....	19,286,219	45,474,841

In addition to the actual imports and exports of Para rubber as shown above, the Government statistics indicate transshipments at Penang and Singapore from the Federated and non-Federated Malay States amounting to 12,852 tons in 1916, as compared with 9,454 tons in 1915, with approximate values of \$18,200,000 and \$9,500,000, respectively.

AMERICAN MACHINERY FOR SIAM'S LEATHER INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 23.]

The manufacture of leather in Siam heretofore has been confined to local Chinese tanneries and to the industrial department of an American mission school which started a tanning and shoemaking business on a small scale about two years ago. Now, however, a Siamese company has been formed with the object of manufacturing leather of all sorts, and machinery to the value of about \$40,000, ordered from a New York firm, is being shipped to Bangkok. At the same time two American leather experts are coming to Siam to take charge of this new business.

The company expects to utilize a large proportion of the skins and hides available in this country, and a resulting decrease in exports of this class from Siam may be anticipated. The exports of skins and hides from Siam for the fiscal year 1915-16 were valued at \$681,919, compared with \$913,585 for the preceding year, and the destinations of the shipments for 1915-16 were almost entirely the United Kingdom and its dependencies.

Imports of Leather and Dressed Skins.

Siam's imports of leather and dressed skins for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, amounted to 69,937 pounds, valued at \$60,538, against 78,405 pounds, valued at \$45,595, for the preceding year. The leather imports for 1915-16 from the United Kingdom and dependencies amounted to \$53,634, from the United States to \$956, and from all other countries to \$5,948.

Hitherto nearly all the saddlery and other leather manufactures have been imported into Siam from abroad, to the amount of about \$155,000 yearly, but now local manufacture has been undertaken, and machinery for the purpose has been supplied by a branch of an American sewing-machine company in England.

RECORD CARGO OF BRAZILIAN FROZEN MEAT.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 20.]

According to the *Jornal do Commercio*, the largest single shipment of frozen meat made from Brazil left on September 15 on the *Highland Harris*, bound for England. It consisted of 40,122 quarters, weighing 2,602,726 kilos (about 5,738,000 pounds). The cattle were killed at the slaughterhouse of Santa Cruz by the exporters, Caldeira Filhos & Co. The steamer also took on board in Santos some 300 metric tons of meat from the Frigorifico of Barretos, thus making a total of more than 2,900 tons, the largest shipment so far made from Brazil on one vessel. The firm of Caldeira Filhos & Co. killed for that shipment 10,180 head of cattle.

SWISS CATTLE EXPORTS FOR BREEDING PURPOSES.

[Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall, Sept. 23.]

A sale of cattle for export was held September 19 at Appenzell in the St. Gall consular district. Two hundred fresh cows, on the average older animals, were offered for sale, and of these 100 were purchased. The average price per head was 1,150 francs (\$222). It is reported also from Romanshorn (one of the ports on Lake Constance) that during the past two weeks more than 200 carloads of cattle for breeding purposes, purchased in the Cantons St. Gall, Thurgau, and Appenzell, were exported.

The importance of cattle breeding for Switzerland is indicated by the fact that of all the land cultivated in the country 45.5 per cent is meadow and 32.9 per cent pasture land. The Swiss breeds of cattle are excellent, and during the past half-century particular attention has been devoted to scientific breeding. The various kinds of horned cattle form the fundamental stock of Swiss cattle raising. The first rank is taken by the heavy representatives of the Simmenthal cattle (fallow-colored and red-brindled cows), the brown and the gray breed, the black-spotted cattle of Freiburg, then the lighter stock of the Alpine districts, such as those of the Eringer Valley.

Qualities Which Create Demand for Swiss Cattle.

The ability to bequeath their qualities and their good health are the chief reasons for the demand for Swiss cattle.

In 1913 Switzerland exported 2,316 bulls for breeding, valued at \$421,818; 6,732 cows, valued at \$941,534, in which are included 4,004 milch cows, worth \$681,591; and 1,701 oxen, valued at \$230,526, in which are included 1,583 draft animals, valued at \$222,869.

Horse breeding, apart from that carried on at the stock farms of the Confederation, where a special old stock, the "Freiberg" or "Jura," is raised, is of some importance. In 1913 the exports amounted to 1,485 head, valued at \$258,568.

Hogs and goats are raised for domestic consumption, with the exception of the Saanen goats, which are exported principally to Russia.

Altogether in 1913 22,780 living animals, valued at \$2,165,779, were exported. The figures for 1914 have not yet been published in detail, but as available they are as follows: Horses and colts, 1,046 head, valued at \$177,367; horned cattle, 12,665 head, \$1,525,472; other animals, 11,716 head, \$514,538; total, 25,427 head, \$2,217,377.

[An article on the war's effect on Swiss live-stock conditions was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 16, 1916.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

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 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

BRITISH LIVE-STOCK AND CROP STATISTICS.

[Preliminary Statement, British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.]

The number of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs in England and Wales in 1915 and 1916, from returns collected on June 5, 1916, was as follows: Horses, 1,287,180 in 1915 and 1,359,570 in 1916; cattle, 6,064,150 in 1915 and 6,215,780 in 1916; sheep, 17,522,580 in 1915 and 17,951,120 in 1916; pigs, 2,420,030 in 1915 and 2,167,940 in 1916.

The following table shows the acreage in 1915 and 1916 of the principal crops of England and Wales:

Crops.	1915	1916
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Barley.....	1,231,720	1,331,750
Beans.....	266,510	236,129
Clover and rotation grasses.....	2,362,370	2,590,410
Fallow, bare.....	309,640	421,880
Fruit, small.....	74,190	73,240
Lucerne.....	53,070	54,270
Mangold.....	413,723	378,240
Mustard.....	32,150	65,723
Oats.....	2,088,070	2,084,850
Orchards.....	248,830	251,320
Peas.....	129,380	112,680
Potatoes.....	463,400	427,910
Rape.....	65,530	70,830
Rye.....	47,680	53,440
Turnips and swedes.....	931,800	938,030
Vetches or tares.....	109,630	89,110
Wheat.....	2,170,170	1,912,120
All other crops.....	216,710	210,270
Total arable land.....	11,214,510	11,302,222
Duplicate area for crops or grasses sown in orchards.....	248,830	251,320
Net total arable land.....	10,965,710	11,050,903
Permanent grass.....	16,087,390	16,022,960
Total acreage under all crops and grass.....	27,053,100	27,073,863

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.....	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.....	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana.....	.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.....	.....	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22- Nov. 1.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark.....	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany.....	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon.....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany.....	do	Do.

EXPORT OF RAW COTTON THROUGH TSINGTAU.

[Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China, Sept. 19.]

There follows a synopsis of a report on raw cotton in Shantung Province, China, and its export through Tsingtau, prepared by the Imperial Japanese Military Administration at Tsingtau:

A certain foreign observer estimates the annual production of cotton in the three northern Provinces of Chihli, Shantung, and Honan at 133,000,000 pounds. This estimate is substantiated by the annual export figures from Tientsin and Tsingtau, namely, 66,500,000 pounds or one-half of the total yield.

In Shantung cotton is sown the middle of April and the harvest begins the middle of September. The export trade is most brisk in October, November, and December, then declines until it ends in June or July.

Kinds and Uses of Shantung Cotton—Packing and Prices.

Some attempt has been made to introduce American seed, but as the stock deteriorates in three years and there is not much difference in price between the American variety and the native, there is little inducement to plant it. One district produces white, soft cotton of a fairly long staple, but in general Shantung cotton is stiff and short and unfit for spinning purposes. It is, however, white and dry and is largely used in Japan for padding. In European countries it is used in a variety of manufactures and for mixing with wool.

Before transportation to shipping points Shantung cotton is ginned. The gins used are mainly Japanese, costing about \$20, or German, costing between \$72 and \$96 apiece. The cleaned cotton weighs 65 to 70 per cent of the seed cotton. It is packed in cloth bags weighing about 126 pounds per package, tare being 3.5 per cent of the gross weight.

Before the war cotton was worth 7 or 8 cents a pound in Tsinanfu (the capital of the Shantung Province and the principal interior cotton market), but since the war a weak market has reduced the price to 6 or 7 cents.

Consumption and Export—Shipping Expenses.

The annual exportation of raw cotton through Tsingtau in recent years has been as follows: In 1911, 5,342,743 pounds; in 1912, 9,252,810 pounds; in 1913, 6,420,575 pounds; and in 1914, 1,296,883 pounds. It is estimated that about 2,660,000 pounds of Shantung cotton are exported through Tientsin annually.

Small dealers in the interior collect cotton from the producers, gin it, and pack it in large bags. It is then collected by dealers in Tsinanfu, who sell it to foreign buyers, charging 2 per cent commission. The expenses incurred in carrying cotton from Tsinanfu through Tsingtau to Japanese ports are as follows, the amounts being stated in cents per package (120 pounds): Tsinanfu to Tsingtau over the Shantung Railway—Loading charges at Tsinanfu, 1; railway freight, 16; shifting of freight car to Tsingtau wharf, 1; repacking at Tsingtau (including unloading charges), 3; shifting charges on wharf, 2; total, 23 cents. Tsingtau to Japan by Japanese steamers—wharfage, 4; export duty, 25; ship freight, 45; insurance, 4; total, 78 cents.

On the Tientsin-Pukow Railway, which affords an outlet either to Nanking on the Yangtze River or to Tientsin in the North, cotton is treated as second-class cargo, and the freight (when the fiber is loaded 6 tons to the car) as dearer by \$2.24 than on the Shantung Railway. Further, on the Tientsin-Pukow line there is an internal tax of \$0.091 per 133 pounds, with other charges at Tientsin.

A cotton-testing plant for moisture is to be erected in Tsingtau and possibly, later, a cotton press will be constructed in Tsinanfu, in order to encourage the export of cotton.

COAL-MINING PROGRESS IN FAR NORTH.

The development of the coal fields in the Bear Islands (between Spitzbergen and Norway), in Spitzbergen, and in Iceland is receiving much attention in Scandinavia at present, according to a recent article on the subject in the Danish press. The Norwegian Spitzbergen Syndicate, it is stated, has shipped more than 15,000 tons of coal to northern Norway since the middle of August. (An interesting account of Spitzbergen's coal-mining industry appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 8, 1915, and reference was also made to the island's coal deposits in the issue for Jan. 7, 1916.)

The deposits in the Bear Islands are being investigated. It is already known that the deposits extend over a large area and that the coal is not of a first-class quality. If the results of the investigation are satisfactory a company will be formed for the systematic working of the field. Harbor works and a wireless-telegraph station are already planned.

Preliminary explorations for coal in West Iceland, begun last year, were continued during the summer of 1916 and showed that the coal improves as the workings penetrate deeper into the mountains. The coal first obtained was a kind of lignite; the best of it was somewhat black and heavy, but of fair quality, and was doubtless suitable for domestic use. It is pointed out, however, that even if the coal proves better in quality than the samples so far obtained a way to surmount transportation difficulties will have to be found.

TO PROMOTE SOUTH AFRICAN MOTION-PICTURE BUSINESS.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, Sept. 5.]

A motion-picture company has been formed lately in South Africa for the promotion of the business throughout the Union. It is stated that arrangements are under way for theaters in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, East London, Pietermaritzburg, Beaconsfield, Grahams Town, Woodstock, Claremont, and Wynberg. As the business progresses, theaters may also be erected in many of the smaller towns. It is possible that the company will absorb some theaters now in operation. Films are to be obtained from the company's bureau in New York, and it is said that a continuous supply, twice a week, for the theaters owned by the company is to be provided.

Motion pictures have made great progress in this country. A Cape Town man who is already in the business will probably control the affairs of this new company.

MAPLE-SUGAR INDUSTRY IN CANADA.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Oct. 16.]

Canada as a whole produces annually, according to recent statistics, about \$2,000,000 worth of maple products. Of the total yield during the five years 1908-1912 the United States took 99 per cent of the sugar and 50 per cent of the sirup. In that period the aggregate export was 8,685,000 pounds of sugar and 20,000 gallons of sirup, with the Province of Quebec the chief producer.

In the maritime Provinces the value of the maple tree, save as a factor in the lumbering industry, has hardly yet begun to be appreciated and the making of maple sugar and sirup has never been undertaken in a systematic manner. Nevertheless there are a few farmers who find the unfelled maple a source of profit. One of these has furnished, at the writer's request, the following facts with regard to the maple areas and the making of maple sugar and sirup in the Nova Scotian County of Cumberland:

Nova Scotian Areas and Production.

The Cobequid Mountains, from near Parrsboro to Londonderry and Westchester, extend for about 40 miles, with an average width of hardwood lands of perhaps 15 miles. Of this hardwood it is safe to say that one-third is maple. There are probably not more than 100 sugarhouses in this whole area of 600 square miles. Practically all of these are equipped with modern evaporators. An outfit of buckets, tanks, evaporator, and buildings will cost from \$400 to \$600 for a woods of 1,200 to 2,000 trees (a fair average in this county). In normal seasons the yield is about 1½ pounds per tree, or 1,500 pounds for 1,200 trees. At the same ratio 100 farms would produce 150,000 pounds of sugar.

The Nova Scotian maple sap is made into hard sugar, cream sugar, wax, and sirup. Prices are about as follows for best-quality products, but current report forecasts marked advances shortly: Hard sugar, \$0.12 a pound; cream sugar, \$0.16 to \$0.18 a pound; candy or wax, \$0.15 to \$0.18 a pound; sirup, \$1.25 a gallon.

Compared with Quebec's sugar woods, those in Nova Scotia do not yield as much per tree, but whether this is due to the soil and the size of the trees has not yet been determined. The Nova Scotia farmer who follows the sugar industry does so at a season of the year when his other duties demand but little of his time. However, the work is attended with considerable hardship, as many of the woods are far away from the homestead. In such case the sugar maker must have, in addition to his sugarhouse, a camp for himself and a barn for his horses. It is the practice for him to remain in camp for the whole season, coming out only for supplies or to dispose of his sugar. Last spring the sugar makers had to break through 3 feet of solid snow to reach their camps at the beginning of the season.

NEW SWISS TAX MEASURES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 27.]

The Swiss Government has published figures showing that a total of \$110,092,780 has been spent by the Republic as a result of the European War, mobilization calling for the expenditure of \$79,371,245 and the sum of \$30,721,535 having been distributed in relief for the needy. Long-term loans for \$83,916,400 have been placed in Switzerland and the United States to cover these outlays, but a deficit remains, and this is now engrossing the minds of Switzerland's financial advisers. A tobacco monopoly, beer tax, stamp tax on checks, receipts, and papers of value, tax on alcoholic beverages not already taxed, revision of the military tax-exemption law, and a

new war tax are among the measures proposed and now under consideration by the Swiss Congress.

In addition to the war-tax law already in operation, there was passed on September 18, 1916, by the Swiss Parliament a law for the taxation of war profits, the provisions of which will not be without interest in countries having similar laws on their statute books. Profiting by the experience of others, the new Swiss law probably is the most complete law of its kind ever enacted. Under the new law all annual net profits that show more than a 10 per cent increase above the average profits for the last two years preceding July 1, 1914, will be subject to a 25 per cent tax, with exemptions as follows: Ten thousand francs (\$1,930) in case of single ownership, 15,000 francs (\$2,895) in dual ownerships, and 20,000 francs (\$3,860) when three or more are interested in a business. Thus a stock company composed of three or more individuals the average profits of which were 50,000 francs (\$9,650) before the war may be earning 70,000 francs (\$13,510) now and not be subject to the tax.

Law Applies to Agencies and Branches of Foreign Companies.

Those engaged in business only occasionally during the year will be obliged to pay on the total gains of the transactions involved, minus the expenses incurred, provided profits were over 5,000 francs (\$965).

Agencies or branch houses of foreign concerns doing business in Switzerland and Swiss interests in foreign concerns are subject to the tax unless it can be shown that the profits of the latter already have been subjected to a foreign war-profit tax. This exemption, however, is not applicable to profits made by such concern on business transacted in Switzerland. And it is also provided that foreign branch houses and agencies doing business in Switzerland will pay only on war profits accumulated in Switzerland.

Special consideration is shown for concerns whose business in previous years suffered, and it is also provided that the tax should not be enforced against those who through no fault of their own find themselves unable to pay.

Failure to fully account for all profits subjects the recalcitrant to a surtax of 50 per cent on the undeclared amounts. In case a person liable to taxation fails to declare his war profits or makes false statements in order to obtain a lower assessment, he or his heirs shall pay double the amount of the tax they escaped, and in addition may be fined \$19 to \$4,825.

[A copy of the law, in German, will be loaned to those interested by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington. Refer to file No. 81221.]

Medical Supplies for Chilean Army.

Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens has forwarded a list of the drugs and other articles used by the Medical Department of the Chilean Army, stating, "In order to sell to the Chilean Army it is generally necessary to deal through a local agent." The list of supplies and the address of a Santiago citizen interested in this trade may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 1866.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**AUSTRALIA.****Removal of Bounty on Wool Tops.**

According to a report received from Consul General J. I. Brittain, Melbourne, dated August 8, 1916, the Australian export bounty on combed wool or tops (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 10, p. 92) was discontinued January 1, 1916.

[Commonwealth Gazette, Aug. 24.]

Prohibition of Exportation of Silver.

A proclamation of the Governor General of Australia of August 23, 1916, prohibits the exportation from Australia of silver ingots or bars, sheet silver, and granulated silver, except with the previous consent of the Attorney General.

GUATEMALA.**Analysis Fee for Pharmaceutical Products.**

The Guatemalan Government has recently informed the American Minister to Guatemala that the analysis fee of \$10 required in the case of medicinal preparations imported into the country is hereafter to be imposed only when the products are of secret formula. It is expressly stated, however, that the fees already collected in the case of other preparations are not to be refunded. [A notice on this subject was published in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 18, p. 24.]

ITALY.

[Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 28.]

Taxes on Export Permits for Goods Under Embargo.

The Italian Government by a decree of August 31, 1916, established a "concession" tax on goods under embargo for which export licenses are granted, according to a notice appearing in the British Board of Trade Journal for September 28, 1916. Specific charges are imposed on a considerable number of articles and all other products are to be subject to a fee of 2 per cent ad valorem, calculated on the valuations established by the Italian customs for statistical purposes. This special tax on certain exports takes the place of the general export duty (1 per cent ad valorem in the case of most articles) prescribed by the decree of September 15, 1915 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 19, p. 57). It is to be noted that the export charges on hemp have been heavily increased, the rate on the raw product being raised from 2 to 7 lire per 100 kilos and that on combed hemp from 3 to 8 lire per 100 kilos. (Lira, par value, \$0.193; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.)

[The Italian embargo list is very extensive and includes all articles of food. Information regarding the new rates on specified products may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

NICARAGUA.

[Consul John A. Gamon, Corinto, Aug. 21.]

Forwarding of Proper Shipping Documents.

The prompt forwarding of the necessary shipping documents is a matter which should be carefully considered by those exporting to Nicaragua.

Recently a San Francisco export house shipped 500 sacks of rice to Nicaragua consigned to order. The shipping documents, having been mailed incorrectly, failed to arrive by the steamer carrying the merchandise and were received 1 month and 22 days after the arrival of the goods. Meanwhile the market had dropped 50 cents per sack, resulting in a loss of \$250 to the importer. Furthermore, delay in the receipt of papers resulted in extra expense for storage and handling, amounting to \$248. Additional expense will be incurred in the disposal of the rice, as the purchaser has refused to accept the shipment.

Failure to Forward Certificate of Origin.

The Nicaraguan treaty with France provides that raw materials for soap making are to be exempt from import duty. Such imports from the United States are also entitled to free admission, provided a certificate of origin accompanies the shipment. A few weeks ago a shipment of 25 barrels of rosin arrived in Corinto from the United States without certificate of origin. The importer, being unable to take advantage of this tariff concession, refused to receive the merchandise, and handling and storage fees were charged to the exporter.

Disadvantage of "To Order" Shipments.

In the first instance, if the goods had been consigned to a reliable customs broker or commission house, the rice could have been cleared and stored without undue expense even though the documents had not arrived. The customs law provides that consignments may be cleared upon presentation of an order from the shipping company to the customs authorities authorizing the release without bill of lading and upon the filing of a bond by the importer to pay double the value of the merchandise in case the bill of lading is not presented within the time allowed by law. Under these conditions the shipment could have been cleared, but as an "order" shipment it was impossible to do so.

These two instances are good illustrations of the necessity of the correct handling of shipping documents for this country. Mails at times are very irregular, six weeks sometimes elapsing between the arrival of mail steamers. Although errors in documentation are held as matters of minor importance by some exporters, it is a matter of record that these cases occur far too frequently to be lightly passed over. The frequent repetition of such occurrences, apart from the needless expenses incurred by shippers, jeopardizes friendly relations between United States exporters and Nicaraguan purchasers. As an example of this, the importer who ordered the 500 sacks of rice referred to above was put to considerable expense in connection with a previous shipment of merchandise from the same exporting house, and when the claim for recovery was made the latter disclaimed responsibility and refused to make good the loss, although the difficulty was due to faulty documentation and delivery. The importer did not feel inclined to accept the shipment of rice in this instance in view of his previous experience. Shippers should carefully read over instructions from Nicaraguan importers and should promptly and explicitly comply with them.

[In connection with the forwarding of certificates of origin it should be noted that a considerable number of important products of United States origin are entitled to a reduction of 25 per cent of the regular duties if accompanied by

proper certificate of origin. A list of these products was published in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 4, p. 110, and is also given on p. 51 of Tariff Series No. 24.]

PORTUGAL.

[Consul William Bardel, St. Michaels, Sept. 11.]

Restrictions on Gold Jewelry in the Azores.

Under the Portuguese laws, manufactures of gold, whether of domestic or foreign production, may not be offered for sale in Portugal or its adjacent islands unless of a guaranteed fineness of 0.9166 (about 22 carats) or of 0.8 (about 19½ carats). It is also required that all gold jewelry must be sent to Lisbon to receive the official Government stamp before being offered for sale. According to another provision, no dealer in solid gold articles is permitted to place on sale in his show cases any imitation articles. As a result, the trade in such goods is confined almost entirely to the dry goods and department stores.

URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, Aug. 22.]

New Duties on Silk Goods.

The measure substituting an ad valorem duty of 12 per cent for the former specific duties on silk goods of various kinds (see Commerce Reports for Sept. 27, 1916) was enacted into law August 16, 1916. The new rate applies to products included in Nos. 751, 752, 881, 882, 993, 994, 995, 996, 1033, 1034, 1070, 1071, 1073, and 1074 of the Uruguayan customs tariff and is also applicable to fabrics containing fibers other than silk in a proportion not exceeding 70 per cent. It is specially provided by an order dated August 19, 1916, that the fabrics classified under the foregoing numbers are to be subject to surtaxes aggregating 9 per cent ad valorem.

TELEGRAPH CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE IN PERU.

[American Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Sept. 25.]

The recent report of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs for Peru states that the telegraph lines of the country may on the basis of cost be divided into two general classes—the coast lines and the interior lines. The figures of cost for original construction and for upkeep per kilometer (0.62 mile) on each class of lines are:

Items of cost.	Coast.	Inland.
Original construction, iron posts.....	\$200.00	\$225.00
Renovation of wire and insulators every 3 years.....	20.00	6.00
Renewal of insulators and wire necessary each year.....	6.66	2.00
Original construction, wood posts.....	100.00	45.00
Total renewal every 3 years.....	100.00	.....
Renewal necessary yearly.....	33.00	17.00

NEW BANKS IN SIBERIA.

[Vice Consul H. F. Newhard, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, Sept. 13.]

According to the Omsk Telegraph of September 2, 1916, it is the intention of the Azof-Don Commercial Bank to establish several branches in Siberia for the purpose of assisting credit trading and industrial enterprises.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Sea-wall construction, No. 3712.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1916, for constructing a reinforced concrete sea wall anchored to wood piles, at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the Superintendent of the Naval Academy.

Rope, rubber hose, etc., No. 3713.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, 341 P. O. Building, Detroit, Mich., until November 28, 1916, for the sale by the Lighthouse Service of old rope, rubber hose, lead, copper, brass, etc. Further information may be had on application to the above-named inspector.

Signal Corps supplies, No. 3714.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until November 9, 1916, for furnishing bells, controllers, lamps, switches, red coloring fluid, etc. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 876.)

Dredging, No. 3715.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 4, 1916, for dredging at the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Repair of Light Vessel, No. 3716.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Baltimore, Md., until November 14, 1916, for docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing Light Vessel, No. 52. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Cable, No. 3717.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until November 3, 1916, for furnishing 1,600 feet of cable. Specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 877.)

Radio masts, No. 3718.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 4, 1916, for radio masts for the receiving station in the State, War, and Navy Building, Washington, D. C. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Miscellaneous work, No. 3719.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until October 27, 1916, for performing miscellaneous jobs during the period beginning December 1, 1916, and ending June 30, 1917, covering the following range of work: Electrical, carpentering, cabinet work, gardening, plastering, bricklaying, concrete, cement finishing, excavating by hand, lawn mowing, grading by hand, moving, cleaning and the like, excavating and grading with teams, plowing, carting, plumbing and steamfitting, blacksmithing, stone setting, and painting. Specifications may be had on application to the Bureau of Standards.

Cupola, blower, etc., No. 3720.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1916, for furnishing one $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton cupola, blower, ladle, and other accessories. Specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Standards.

Coast-guard station, No. 3721.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Coast Guard, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 28, 1916, for constructing a coast-guard station and accessories at San Luis, Galveston Island, Tex. Specifications and drawings may be obtained on application to the Superintendent Ninth District, Coast Guard, Galveston, Tex., or to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Automobile accessories, etc., No. 22766.—An American consular officer in Venezuela writes that a manufacturers' agent in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of automobile accessories and supplies. Other lines are desired later.

Machinery, etc., No. 22767.—An oculist in the Far East informs an American consular officer of his desire to communicate with manufacturers of equipment for the manufacture of lenses for glasses and other optical goods. Machinery for the entire process, from the smelting of the metal to the final grinding of the lenses, as well as books connected with these processes, are desired.

Windmills, No. 22768.—An American consular officer in Brazil writes that an important firm in his district is desirous of getting in touch with American manufacturers of windmills. Catalogues and full particulars are desired at once. Correspondence in English.

Tools, hardware, etc., No. 22769.—An American consular officer in the Netherlands reports that a company in his district wishes to form connections with American manufacturers of tools, padlocks, hardware in general, novelties of all kinds, corsets, articles of women's apparel, and other manufactured goods for which a market may be found in that country.

Drugs, lubricants, etc., No. 22770.—A firm in Spain informs an American consular officer that it wishes to be placed in touch with American exporters of drugs, greases, paints, and lubricants.

Notions and novelties, etc., No. 22771.—An American consular officer in Greece reports that one of the principal dry goods stores in his district desires to import from the United States novelties and notions of all kinds, including colored yarns, cotton tapes, scissors, aluminum spoons and forks, etc., shaving brushes, snap fasteners, elastic for garters, pocket mirrors, combs, and key rings and chains, etc. A complete list of the articles desired, together with samples, may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79252.)

Advertising posters, No. 22772.—A firm of seed merchants in Australia informs an American consular officer of its desire to secure some advertising posters, 6 or 10 feet square, showing scenes of farm life, for use in advertising the goods handled by that firm.

Provisions, barbed wire, etc., No. 22773.—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a manufacturers' representative in Cuba who desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery of all kinds, barbed wire, codfish, flour, wheat, salt, oat bran, potatoes, beans, and peas, etc.

Machinery, No. 22774.—A commission broker in Porto Rico desires to get in touch with manufacturers of machinery for making oxygen. Information is also desired as to the present price in New York of oxygen gas, and other particulars regarding the manufacture and marketing of that gas.

Bronze powder, No. 22775.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that an established manufacturer of wall paper in his district wants to buy bronze powder direct from the American manufacturers.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 250 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 24 1916

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FRENCH PROHIBITION ON RAW TARTAR.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Paris.]

A French decree of October 12 prohibits the importation into France and Algeria of wine lees and raw tartar of foreign origin or that shipped from foreign countries. The prohibition is not applicable to Government imports, and shipments made direct before the publication of the decree are subject to exceptions by the Minister of Finance.

DOMESTIC MINERAL WATERS BRING LARGER RETURNS.

The number of active mineral springs in the United States in 1915, according to figures compiled by the United States Geological Survey, showed a reduction from the figures of the preceding year, and the production was smaller, though the value was greater than in 1914. Statistics reported from 829 commercial springs show that the total production was 54,358,466 gallons, valued at \$4,892,328. The decrease in production was 2,444,963 gallons, or 4 per cent. The increase in value of medicinal waters was \$60,506 and in the value of table waters \$185,960; thus the total increase in value of sales was \$246,466, or 5 per cent.

The increase in business is slightly smaller than the decrease in imports of foreign waters, and this, coupled with the increase of price per gallon from 9 to 10 cents, indicates increased sales of moderately high-priced domestic waters that have become valuable substitutes for waters previously imported.

New York led in number of commercial springs and in quantity of mineral water sold and was second to Wisconsin in total value of production and in value of table waters. California was first and Indiana was second in value of medicinal waters.

A history of the cod fisheries of the Pacific coast has been published by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. The volume, which contains 111 pages, with half-tone illustrations and a map, includes a complete review of the industry in 1915. Copies may be obtained at 25 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

METHODS OF PURCHASING RATTAN.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 11.]

Differences in methods in the purchase of rattan in the Hongkong market are causing some trouble in the trade, the matter of customs valuations in the United States being one result of such variations. Rattan in Hongkong is brought for export by Chinese firms or by the compradores of foreign firms through brokers from various importers, who obtain the cane from the East Indies and Malay States, a large portion of the best grade cane coming from the southern islands of the Philippines through the Dutch East Indies and other southern ports. [A 40-page monograph on the rattan supply of the Philippines, known as Special Agents' Series No. 95, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; price 5 cents a copy.]

The cane as imported is usually sorted at once into different sizes and grades according to what is known as the American gauge. The various sizes are numbered according to this gauge, from the smallest size (No. 1) serially by half numbers, the value varying also according to the quality and condition of the cane.

Quoting Prices "for the Lot" and for Separate Grades.

Purchases for export are usually made on orders from the United States for an assorted lot, that is, a lot including various sizes of the cane. The price of the cane usually is fixed by the lot, i. e., a lot of 500 bales assorted rattan would be sold at so much for the entire 500 bales. However, each particular size, according to demand and supply, has its own particular price. Usually an assorted lot is sold for a price made up from the proportion of various sizes at particular prices, but sold nevertheless as an assorted lot, and, theoretically, at least, duty would be assessed on the value of the lot.

Several of the Hongkong exporters, however, have been invoicing lots of rattan by sizes and specifying the price for each size, and this has given rise to trouble. The rattan usually sold in the market for American use runs from Nos. 4 to 8, and an ordinary assorted lot would contain sizes accordingly. Sometimes orders from America specify the proportion of sizes wanted, but usually the order calls for an assorted lot, say Nos. 4 to 7 or 4 to 8. Usually such an order would be filled by furnishing sizes within the limit in equal proportion. For example, an order for "350 bales selected rattan core, Nos. 4 to 7, American gauge," would be filled by an equal number of bales of each size, viz, 50 bales of 4, 4½, 5, 5½, 6, 6½, and 7, and so on. The goods would be invoiced at an average price for the grades sent, or at a fixed price for the entire lot.

Small Grades the Most Expensive.

The smallest-sized cane is the most valuable. On the basis of say \$25 gold per picul (133½ pounds) for the smallest size Extra Selected, the price for usual or average grades of Extra Selected would be about \$17 gold and for Market or Common about \$14 gold per picul. Nevertheless, as a rule prices for particular sizes will average higher than if the sizes are bought in lots including the usual proportion of large and small sizes. A lot including sizes from 3 to 8 will

run higher than a lot including only 4 to 7, since it is less easy to secure an assortment covering so many sizes and the extreme grades than an assortment including only the more common grades.

The present tendency in the trade, as well as in customs matters, is to specify sizes and invoice according to price for each item.

[Other articles on the rattan trade of China appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 12, 1915, and July 18 and 28, 1916.]

POPPY CULTIVATION IN MACEDONIA.

[Consul General D. I. Murphy, Sofia, Bulgaria, Sept. 15.]

An important industry of Macedonia—and one that has brought excellent returns to the growers—is the cultivation of the poppy plant. Besides the opium extracted from the flowers, an oil is expressed from the seeds that is said to be superior to Russian sunflower oil and even to English and American cottonseed oil. The residuum, after being pressed into cakes, forms a nourishing food for cattle.

This year's crop of the poppy plant has been most abundant (its estimated value being \$500,000, including the flowers, the opium extracted, and the seed produced), the various centers of cultivation contributing to the season's yield in the following amounts:

Districts.	Pounds.	Districts.	Pounds.
Tikresh.....	55,000	Kratovo.....	6,000
Vales.....	55,000	Prilep.....	11,000
Shtip.....	33,000	Kotchani.....	15,400
Kumanovo.....	33,000		
Skopje.....	26,400	Total.....	242,000
Radovich.....	6,600		

The prices obtained for the season's crop ranged from \$0.12 to \$0.17 per oka (the oka being the equivalent to 2½ pounds).

The primitive methods of extraction pursued in Macedonia produce but 42 per cent of oil, but it is believed that with modern presses the output would be much greater. One-third of the seed suffices for the needs of the country, the remainder being exported. The opium produced likewise is exported, but it has been found impossible to obtain any reliable information as to the probable value of this special product.

ULTRAVIOLET RAYS FOR PURIFYING PARA WATER.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 20.]

In his annual message presented to the congress of the State of Para the governor of that State called attention to plans which will be put in operation for the improvement of the water supply of the city of Para as soon as the condition of the treasury permits, and adds that attention is being given to the possibility of adopting a system not yet employed in any other city in Brazil, namely, the modern process of sterilizing water by means of ultraviolet rays. The adoption of this system depends on reliable information in regard to the cost of the apparatus, information which it has not been possible to obtain in Europe up to the present time.

AMERICAN PEDIGREE CATTLE IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 18.]

According to the Argentine Year Book for 1915-16 the grading up of cattle in this country has been brought about by the importation, chiefly from Great Britain, of the best strains of blood that money could purchase. From 1901 to 1914 pedigree animals entering the Republic were as follows: Shorthorn, 10,722; polled Angus, 440; Hereford, 714; red polled, 121; Jersey, 115; various, 649; total, 12,761. Experts have placed an average valuation on these pedigree animals of \$637 United States currency, giving a total valuation of about \$8,000,000.

Show sales of pedigree cattle are held each year at Palermo, in the city of Buenos Aires, and form the annual feature of pastoral life in this Republic. In 1913, the world's record was made at Palermo, when the champion Shorthorn bull, Americus, brought \$80,000 Argentine paper (\$33,968 United States currency). In 1915, the champion bull, Durham Shorthorn, sold at auction for \$60,000 Argentine paper (\$25,476 United States currency). In 1916, the Shorthorn reserve champion brought \$55,000 Argentine paper (\$23,353 United States currency). The favorite breed in the Argentine is now the Durham Shorthorn, of which 200 bulls were sold at auction in 1915 for a total of \$1,140,000 Argentine paper (\$484,040 United States currency), or an average of \$5,700 Argentine paper per head, or about \$2,420 United States currency, all exclusive of a 6 per cent commission which is paid by the purchasers in this country. The Hereford appears to have declined in favor, the champion bull of that breed having been sold in 1915 for \$12,000 Argentine paper (\$5,095 United States currency), or about a fifth of the price paid for the champion Durham.

Standing of the Polled Angus Breed.

The polled Angus was considered a few years ago to be the coming breed, but seemed in little favor at Palermo in 1915, when the champion bull of this class was sold for only \$4,500 Argentine paper (\$1,910 United States currency). On the other hand, the polled Angus steer is in great demand among the establishments that pack frozen beef, and in 1915 prices in the ordinary cattle markets went as high as \$400 Argentine paper (\$170 United States currency) for this type of steer, which is probably a world's record.

In the fall of 1915 Mr. F. W. Harding, of Chicago, secretary of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, came to Argentina, and can be credited with being the primary cause of having this important market thrown open for the future to American Shorthorn pedigree cattle.

Under Government decree dated October 6, 1915, the regulations for the importation of live stock into this country were amended as follows:

Art. 46; par. f, to read: Importation is prohibited into the territory of the Republic, at any point, of live stock of the bovine, ovine, caprine, and porcine species, coming from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists or has existed in an epizootic or general form; or from Departments, Provinces, Countries, or States where the disease exists or has existed within 3 months previous to shipment, the 3 months reckoning from the date of the official declaration of the extinction of the disease, providing that such declaration has not been made until 15 days have elapsed from the date of the last case of the disease.

Time Reduced to Three Months.

Article 48, paragraphs a, b, and c are modified in the sense of reducing the six months to three, which are required to be declared in the sanitary certificate of origin as the period which has elapsed from the date of the extinction of foot-and-mouth disease; and, as set forth in the previously modified article, that the disease does not exist in an epizootic form in the country of origin, and also that there is no case of it in the State, Province, or Department from which the animals have come.

The removal through these amendments of the prohibition upon the importation of American cattle into Argentina should open to American breeders of pedigree cattle a most promising market that heretofore has been monopolized by British breeders.

At the time of Mr. Harding's arrival American cattle were forbidden entry into Argentina so long as foot-and-mouth disease existed anywhere in the United States. In other words, cattle could not be sent here from the State of Maine, for instance, if foot-and-mouth disease chanced to exist in California, although there might not be a case of it in any other State.

RETURNS OF ARGENTINA'S LATEST CENSUS.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Sept. 6.]

According to the recently published returns of the 1914 census, Argentina had on June 1, 1914, a total of 7,885,237 inhabitants, against 3,954,911 inhabitants in 1895, when the preceding census was taken. The most rapid growth is noted in the case of the Province of Mendoza, whose population increased by 138.97 per cent in 19 years. (The increase in the city of Buenos Aires was 137.52 per cent.) The growth of population was also remarkable in the Provinces of Santa Fe and Cordoba, in the Rosario district.

The density of population for the entire Republic in 1914 was 2.7 per square kilometer (0.3861 square mile). Tucuman still leads in this respect, with 14.4 inhabitants per square kilometer, whereas Catamarca has an average of less than 1 inhabitant (0.8). Santa Fe shows an average of 6.8 inhabitants per square kilometer; Entre Rios, 5.7; Cordoba, 4.6; Corrientes, 4.1; and Mendoza, 1.9. Misiones, with 1.8, is the only Territory to attain an average of 1 inhabitant per square kilometer.

Proportion of Males and Females—Migration—Nationality.

Of Argentina's 7,885,237 inhabitants in 1914, 4,227,023 were males and 3,658,214 females. This is, of course, due to the large number of male immigrants, as is shown by the fact that of 5,527,285 Argentine citizens 2,753,214 were males and 2,774,071 females. The preponderance of males is particularly marked in the coast Provinces, which retain and absorb a high percentage of immigrants. On the other hand, in such Provinces as Corrientes, San Luis, Santiago del Estero, San Juan, La Rioja, and Catamarca, whose men find more lucrative employment in other regions, females predominate.

The migration from one Province to another forms the subject of a special study, recently published, in which the Director of the Census states that 85 per cent of native Argentines reside in the Province or territory in which they were born. In 1895 the percentage was 84. The movement toward the cities, which is a characteristic particularly of the industrial stage of economic development, is present in

Argentina in spite of the country's pastoral and agricultural wealth. This applies especially to Buenos Aires.

The information respecting nationality published thus far is of especial interest. Of the 7,885,237 inhabitants of Argentina in 1914, 5,527,285 were Argentines and 2,357,952 foreigners.

Growing Tendency Toward Naturalization.

In a special study concerning naturalization the Director of the Census calls attention to the growing tendency among foreigners to become Argentine citizens. The 1895 census showed that at that time out of every 1,000 male foreigners residing in the Republic only 2.3 had secured naturalization. By 1914 the average had risen to 22.5 per thousand. The following table shows the number of male foreigners of the principal groups residing in Argentina in 1914, together with the number and proportion of naturalized citizens pertaining to each group:

Country of birth.	Naturalized Argentine citizens.	Male inhabitants of Argentina.	Number of naturalized citizens per 1,000 males.
Austria-Hungary.....	786	24,943	31.5
Belgium.....	86	2,781	30.9
Bolivia.....	263	12,024	21.8
Brazil.....	187	18,939	9.8
Chile.....	351	21,092	16.5
England.....	264	18,945	13.9
France.....	1,079	44,021	24.5
Germany.....	739	17,407	42.4
Greece.....	161	5,272	30.1
Italy.....	12,346	587,497	21.0
Paraguay.....	543	16,180	33.5
Portugal.....	296	11,639	25.6
Russia.....	1,139	54,966	20.7
Spain.....	11,448	512,742	22.3
Switzerland.....	304	8,897	34.1
Turkey.....	385	52,194	7.3
Uruguay.....	2,228	46,016	48.4

PROPOSED POWER UNDERTAKINGS FOR ALMERIA.

[Consular Agent Bartley F. Yost, Almeria, Spain, Sept. 18.]

A proposed increase in the price of gas and electricity in Almeria has revived interest in a project, under consideration for some time, for a hydroelectric plant, the power to be obtained from streams in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A study is also being made of the calorific qualities of the large deposits of peat at Roquetas, 10 miles west of Almeria. Either of these undertakings might prove interesting to American engineers and investors.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

EXPORT OF SPANISH TEXTILES.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 20.]

The export of textiles from Spain underwent marked changes during the first seven months of 1916, a period of particular interest in comparing present activity in this branch of manufacture with that manifest in 1914 before the war. Although the value of the export as a whole during the first seven months of 1916 shows a decrease compared with the corresponding period in 1915, it is still considerably in excess of that of 1914, when, until the end of July, business was normal.

Cotton and Cotton Manufactures.

The total value of cotton and cotton manufactures exported during the first seven months of 1916 was \$12,748,909, compared with \$17,748,041 in 1915, a falling off of \$4,999,132, whereas in comparison with the first seven months of 1914, during which sales abroad amounted to \$4,433,698, there is a gain of \$8,315,211. The reexportation of raw cotton fell from nearly 3,000 metric tons in 1915 to 462 tons in 1916, only slightly in excess of the amount in 1914. Raw cotton was likewise imported in lesser quantity, 103,380 tons having been discharged at Spanish ports during the first seven months of 1915, compared with 61,789 tons in 1916.

The export of cotton yarn tripled during the past seven months, compared with 1915, when 1,251 tons were exported, and in 1916, 3,710 tons. While only 1,090 tons of white cotton goods were exported during the first seven months of 1916, compared with 4,101 tons for the corresponding period of 1915, the amount is in marked contrast to the 324 tons exported in 1914. Dyed and printed cotton goods show a steady increase from 1,903 tons in 1914 to 3,657 tons in 1915 and 4,384 tons in 1916. The greater part of the colored cotton goods manufactured here is destined for South and Central American markets, where the demand for them is increasing. Laces and embroideries, of which nearly 13 tons were exported in 1914 and 7½ tons in 1915, increased to 10½ tons in 1916. There were 493 tons of cotton knit goods exported in 1914, 1,769 tons in 1915, and 877 tons in 1916. These figures do not include hosiery and gloves, the export of which rose from 53 tons in 1914 to 362 tons in 1915 and fell to 240 tons in 1916. Spanish knit goods are likewise largely exported to Latin America.

Hemp and Flax Manufactures—Woolen Goods.

The value of the exports of hemp and flax manufactures in 1916 as a whole shows a decrease compared with the first seven months of 1915, but is still more than double that of 1914; the values being \$431,221 in 1914, \$1,327,337 in 1915, and \$1,035,880 in 1916. The most important item of export in this class is yarn of which 983 tons were exported during 1914, 1,151 tons in 1915, and 1,109 tons in 1916. The export of sewing thread has developed from a fraction of a ton in 1914 to 86 tons in 1915, and 210 tons in the 1916 period. The export of fish nets shows a decline from 12 tons in 1914 to 8 tons in 1915 and 5 tons in 1916. There were 375,330 empty sacks exported in 1914, 3,505,602 in 1915, and 609,235 in 1916.

The total value of the exports of wool and woolen manufactures in the first seven months of 1916 was over three times that of the corre-

sponding period of 1914, although less than in 1915, the values being \$3,250,975 in 1914, \$20,001,712 in 1915, and \$11,843,074 in 1916. The export of unwashed wool, influenced by Government restrictions, fell from 7,288 tons in 1914 to 898 tons in 1915 and 966 tons in 1916. Of washed wool 448 tons were exported in 1914, 203 tons in 1915, and 887 tons in 1916. The export of blankets, which rose from 4 tons in 1914 to 3,686 tons in 1915, declined in 1916 to 2,513 tons. Woolen knit goods were exported to the amount of 6 tons in 1914, 1,029 tons in 1915, and 320 tons in 1916. Cloth and other textiles of pure wool increased from 132 tons in 1914 to 1,400 tons in 1915, and 1,563 tons in 1916, while 55 tons of mixed cotton and woolen goods were exported during the first seven months of 1914, 2,502 tons in 1915, and 296 tons in 1916.

IMPROVED BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN VICTORIA.

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 12.]

Business generally in Victoria this fall is 25 to 100 per cent better than it was this time last year. This is particularly the case with dry-goods houses, men's furnishing shops, and stores that cater to women. The only stores that have experienced little or no increase are those which supply chiefly luxuries, such as jewelry.

The bank clearings of Victoria during the last several weeks have shown a steady and growing increase. For the last few weeks they have been running at about \$1,500,000 a week, which is an increase of \$200,000 to \$500,000 a week over the same period last year.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C. C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C. C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22-Nov. 1.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C. Do.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany.....	do	
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	C/o Mr. C. B. Hauptman, Fife Building, San Francisco, Cal., until Oct. 30.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION AND REVENUES IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Sept. 25.]

With 530 miles of steam lines in operation, Venezuela has 7 feet of railway for each square mile of territory, and 11.8 inches per head of population. The average freight rate is 30.5 cents per ton-mile; the average passenger rate 6.57 cents per mile for first class and 4.6 cents for second class. All lines are narrow gauge, the various widths being 3 feet 6 inches, 1 meter (39.37 inches), 3 feet, and 2 feet. As a rule there is no interchange of cars between the various roads. Freight rates are based upon weights without regard to the class or value of the merchandise, and no reductions are made for carload or other quantity shipments. Upon the more important lines the equipment is of European origin and type. With two exceptions all the roads are short lines from a port to a city or a populated district on the highlands not far from tidewater.

Practically all the existing railways were built between 1881 and 1893 under Government subsidies, and guaranties of interest upon the capital invested. This policy was greatly modified in 1892 and 1897, and as a result not a single mile of railroad was constructed. In 1912 the present law was passed, and in 1914 some extensions of existing lines were begun.

Three Roads Taken Over by Government.

In 1895 the Government raised a loan of 50,000,000 bolivars (\$9,650,000), with which three of the least profitable roads were taken over, the accrued debt upon the guaranties paid, and the guaranteeing clauses canceled in all contracts except that of the Puerto Cabello-Valencia Railway. In 1916 this company accepted £190,000 sterling (\$924,635) in payment of all accrued indebtedness and for the cancellation of the interest guaranty for the future.

On several of the main roads traffic is lighter now than 25 years ago, and notwithstanding the fact that rail transportation is as costly as that by pack mule, scarcely any of the railway enterprises have earned a fair return upon the capital invested, though certainly transportation has been quickened and rates have been steadied if not cheapened. It is probable that in several cases capital investments have been smaller and earnings greater than the statistics indicate.

The reasons for the conditions shown lie in the sparseness of the population, and its distribution in a long narrow strip of territory skirting the seaboard, which leads to the building of unconnected lines with short hauls; in the moderate producing and consuming power of the people; and in the general refusal of the lines to grant low rates for commodities of small value.

Total Cargo Movement During Last Year.

In 1915 the total cargo movement over all railways amounted to 280,621 tons, which, on a basis of 300 working days per year, gives a daily movement of only 1½ tons per mile of line.

The Bolivar Railway (British capital) was the first road undertaken in Venezuela. Its object was to provide an outlet for ore from the copper mines in the State of Yaracuy. Construction was begun successively in 1835, in 1862, and for the third time in 1872. The line was completed in 1877. It runs from the port of Tucacas

(northwest of Puerto Cabello) to Aroa and Barquisimeto, and has contracted to construct a branch from Palma Sola to San Felipe, the capital of the State of Yaracuy. Of this branch 20 kilometers (12 miles) were built in 1915. The length is 176.5 kilometers (110 miles) and the contract length 218.5 kilometers. The gauge is two feet and the rail runs 48 pounds to the yard. The capital stock amounts to \$6,822,550 United States currency, and the investment to date is \$5,974,600. The maximum grade is 5.27 per cent, the minimum radius of curves 46.83 meters, ties are of wood and of steel, and there are 518 bridges having a combined length of 2,119 meters.

Gross Income Decreased Steadily.

The road has 13 locomotives with a total weight of 294 tons, 9 passenger coaches, 69 flat cars, 61 box cars, and 125 stock cars. The passenger tariff is 5.8 cents per mile for first class and 3.8 cents for second. The freight rate equals 29 cents per ton-mile. From 1895 to 1902 the road's gross income decreased steadily until in the latter year it was only \$91,711, after which it rose to \$506,590 in 1913. This road has made efforts to encourage agriculture along its line. The general manager is Mr. C. A. Hutchings; address, the Bolivar Railway, Aroa, via Tucacas, Venezuela.

The La Guaira-Caracas Railway (British capital) was opened to service in 1883. It is 22 miles long, running from the port of La Guaira to the city of Caracas, and climbing from sea level to a height of more than 3,000 feet. Although in appearance a dangerous line, it is so well constructed and so carefully policed that there has never been an accident involving loss of life. The gauge is 3 feet, the rail weighs 65 pounds to the yard and ties are of native hardwood. The maximum grade is $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent; the minimum radius of curves 43 meters. There are 15 bridges with a combined length of 281.55 meters and 8 tunnels with a total length of 379.5 meters.

Difference Between Up-grade and Down-grade Freight.

The rolling stock consists of 15 locomotives, with a total weight of 520 tons, 28 passenger coaches, 20 flat cars, 63 box cars, and 34 stock cars. The passenger tariff equals 10.94 cents per mile for first class and 6.68 cents for second. The freight rate is 26.38 cents per ton-mile for import (up-grade) freight and two-thirds of this amount for export or down-grade, the former greatly exceeding the latter in tonnage.

The capital investment is stated as \$3,508,740, and the capital stock of the company is \$1,705,637. The road's best year was in 1891, when material for the Gran Ferrocarril was being imported, and there were large expenditures for construction work. It is said that the highway from Caracas to La Guaira was in very poor condition at that time. Now the competition of pack animals, carts, and automobiles with the railway is keen, and will probably become keener unless the company reduces rates materially.

Although the tracks of the La Guaira Harbor Corporation are of the same gauge as the railway, the cars of the latter never go to ship side, and much cargo is unnecessarily handled twice. The gauge differs from that of the other railways centering in Caracas. This is the best piece of railway property in the country; with only one-twentieth of the total mileage, it transports nearly one-fourth of the freight handled by all lines. It is a steady dividend payer, and a

generous portion of the earnings has been put back into the property. The general manager is Mr. James Flind; address, La Guaira-Caracas Railway, Caracas, Venezuela.

Longest and Most Costly Road in Country.

El Gran Ferrocarril de Venezuela (German capital) is the longest and most costly railway that has been constructed in Venezuela. It was opened to traffic in 1894, and cost \$15,135,492, or an average of \$85,226 for each of its 179 kilometers. This is a length of 111 miles. The road runs from Caracas westward to Valencia, the second city of the Republic, and its construction is much better than is justified either by the necessities or the possible traffic. It was built under a Government guaranty of interest upon the capital invested, which was later canceled in consideration of a cash payment. The gauge is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the rail weighs 47 pounds to the yard; the maximum grade is 2.2 per cent; and the minimum radius of curves is 75 meters. There are 219 bridges and viaducts, having a combined length of 4,656.4 meters, and 86 tunnels, totaling 6,249 meters. The ties are of steel and of concrete, and the rolling stock consists of 18 locomotives, with a combined weight of 720 tons, 30 passenger coaches, 68 flat cars, 60 box cars, and 19 stock cars. The passenger tariff equals $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents per mile for second class and 7.78 cents for first class, and the freight rate is equivalent to 15.65 cents per ton-mile. The freight traffic is small, and nearly half the revenue is from passengers carried. The best year was 1913, when gross receipts were \$552,025 and a return of 1.6 per cent upon capital invested was earned. The management has attempted some development work in tree planting, the introduction of new crops, and the improvement of stock, but the grasshopper plague has affected the results. The company holds concessions for the construction of two branch lines southward into the llanos.

Tracks Built Over High Pass.

The Puerto Cabello-Valencia Railway (British capital) is 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and runs from the port of Puerto Cabello to the city of Valencia. It climbs over a pass 1,952 feet above sea level, and has at one point a rack-rail section 2.4 miles long with a maximum grade of 8 per cent, the steepest gradient on the smooth-rail sections being $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The gauge is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the minimum radius of curves 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ meters; there are 33 bridges with a combined length of 915.5 meters and one tunnel 76.25 meters long. The rail on the rack section runs 70 pounds and on the others 55 pounds to the yard. Rolling stock consists of 10 locomotives with a total weight of 398 tons, 13 passenger coaches, 26 flat cars, 43 box cars, and 28 stock cars. The passenger tariff equals $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per mile first class, and 6 cents per mile second class. The freight rates are equivalent to 20 cents per ton-mile, though the road in the effort to increase the amount of down-grade or export tonnage has recently made reductions upon some articles. The capital investment is stated as \$3,898,600. Gross income was 921,262 bolivars in 1888, 2,082,844 bolivars in 1893, and 1,072,815 bolivars in 1915 (bolivar=\$0.193). The road was built under a Government guaranty of 7 per cent upon the capital invested. This rate was never earned, and there were years of dispute as to the amounts actually invested and actually earned. Some payments on

this account were made; the guaranty was reduced to 5 per cent, and this year (1916) it was definitely cancelled in consideration of a cash payment of £190,000. The general manager is Mr. W. A. Littell, address Puerto Cabello-Valencia Railway, Valencia, Venezuela.

Combination Steam and Electric Road.

The Central Railway of Venezuela (British capital) has 73.5 kilometers (46 miles) of completed line and 23.5 kilometers yet to be constructed to complete its contract. It runs from Caracas in a general southeasterly direction toward Ocumare on the Tuy River, the town of Yare being the present terminus. The gauge is 3½ feet, the same as the Gran Ferrocarril, but wider than that of the La Guaira-Caracas railway. These are the roads centering in Caracas. The station is across the city from the others, and all transfer cargo has to be carted 2 miles. The capital stock of the company is 5,050,000 bolivars and the capital investment is 20,015,000 bolivars. The country traversed is classified as level 10 kilometers, broken 5 kilometers, rough 11, and mountainous 34. The average cost per kilometer is put at \$67,722. The line began operations in 1887 and the gross receipts that year were 86,501 bolivars; they were 295,487 bolivars in 1891, but only 73,114 bolivars in 1902. Since then they have increased steadily, and were 765,929 bolivars in 1915. The maximum grade is 4 per cent, the minimum radius of curves 50 meters. There are 75 bridges and viaducts with a combined length of 724 meters, and 14 tunnels. Ties are of wood and of steel, and on some stretches the rails have been placed upon limestone blocks, but this proved unsuccessful and has been given up. The company operates an electric service over its lines as far as Petare.

The road has 8 locomotives weighing 277 tons, 13 passenger cars, 23 flat cars, 14 box cars, and 4 stock cars. The passenger tariff is equal to 3 cents per mile, and the freight rate to 27 cents per ton-mile. Since 1906 the business of this road has increased rapidly. The general manager is Mr. Albert Cherry, address, Central Railway of Venezuela, Caracas.

Low Average Construction Cost.

El Gran Ferrocarril del Tachira (Venezuelan capital) is 120 kilometers (74.5 miles) long and runs from Encontrados on the Catatumbo, a river emptying into Lake Maracaibo, southward to San Felix. It is the principal outlet for the state of Tachira, its capital, San Cristobal, and the Colombian department of Santander. The gauge is 1 meter (3.28 feet), the rail runs 40 pounds to the yard, the maximum grade is 2 per cent, the minimum curve radius 75 meters, and there are 6 bridges with a total length of 332 meters. The country traversed for a distance of 110 kilometers is level, and for 10 kilometers it is broken. The average construction cost is given as only 61,135 bolivars per kilometer. Rolling stock consists of 7 locomotives with a total weight of 210 tons, 6 passenger coaches, 34 flat cars, 32 box cars, and 4 stock cars. The passenger tariff is equivalent to 6.8 cents per mile for first class and 3.4 cents per mile for second class. The northbound, or export freight rate, is 21 cents per ton-mile and the southbound, or import rate, 35 cents. The amount of cargo transported annually varies greatly, depending almost entirely upon the price of coffee and the size of the crop. In

1902, 11,113 tons, and in 1903, 27,582 tons were transported. The latter figure is the highest ever reached.

Nearly All Material of American Origin.

The capital stock of the company is 7,000,000 bolivars, or \$1,351,000, fully paid in. American interests own some of the stock and, contrary to the usual rule in Venezuela, nearly all the material is of American origin. Owing to its moderate capitalization and construction cost this railway shows better returns than any other in Venezuela. The gross earnings for 1913 were 10.88 per cent, compared with 8 per cent for the next best road. Its principal difficulties are with inundations by the Catatumbo River, which threaten the destruction of the port of Encontrados, and the greatest obstacle to the growth of its traffic is the fact that merchandise destined for its territory must undergo so many handlings en route that the cost is greatly increased and the consumption correspondingly diminished. The local address of this railway is Señor Pedro N. Olivares, Gerente del Gran Ferrocarril del Tachira, Maracaibo, Venezuela.

El Ferrocarril de la Ceiba (Venezuelan capital) is 50.6 miles long and runs from the port of La Ceiba on Lake Maracaibo toward the city of Trujillo in the State of the same name. The gauge is 3 feet, the rail weight 40 pounds to the yard, the maximum grade 3 per cent, the minimum curve radius 80 meters, and there are 37 bridges, with a combined length of 1,356 meters. Rolling stock consists of 6 locomotives, with total weight of 135 tons, 7 passenger coaches, 7 flat cars, 34 box cars, and 2 stock cars. The passenger tariff equals 5.3 cents per mile first class and 3.8 cents for second class, and the freight rate is 31 cents per ton-mile.

Meets Competition from Pack Mule.

Capital investment and capital stock are both stated as 8,000,000 bolivars (\$1,544,000). Gross receipts were 1,285,872 bolivars in 1896; 582,160 bolivars in 1905, and 975,445 bolivars in 1915. When this line was only half its present length and the capital only 2,000,000 bolivars it earned 17½ per cent, whereas now its returns are only about 5½ per cent. In 1912 there were 21,051 tons of cargo transported, and in 1915 only 14,874 tons. Like most Venezuelan railways, this one suffers severely from the competition of the pack mule. The address of the company is Señor R. Belloso Rincon, Gerente del Gran Ferrocarril de la Ceiba, Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Ferrocarril de Santa Barbara a el Vigia (Venezuelan capital), with 37 kilometers (23 miles) in operation, and a contract length of 60 kilometers, runs from Santa Barbara, a port on the Escalante River, which empties into Lake Maracaibo, toward the city of Merida in the State of the same name. The gauge is one meter (3.28 feet), the rail weight 40 pounds to the yard, the steepest gradient 2 per cent, the minimum curve radius 100 meters, and there are 15 bridges with a combined length of 138 meters. The rolling stock consists of 5 locomotives with a total weight of 124 tons, 6 passenger coaches, 12 flat cars, 14 box cars, and 1 stock car. The passenger rate is 6 cents per mile for first class and 4 cents for second class, and the freight rate equals 39 cents per ton-mile for imports, and 34 cents per ton-mile for export cargo.

Built by French Company; Now Government Road.

The construction cost is stated as 3,021,880 bolivars (\$583,223). It was built by a French company, under guaranty, and was taken over by the Venezuelan Government in 1895. Gross receipts have increased steadily from 154,020 bolivars in 1909 to 465,869 bolivars in 1915. In 1892 the road was partially destroyed by an inundation of the Chama River; from that year locomotives operated only to kilometer 37 and cars were drawn by mule power to kilometer 47, where pack transport began, but in June and July, 1915, new floods of the Chama destroyed still more of the line. The Government has appropriated its rental to reconstruction, and the work is progressing.

Of the three lines owned by the Government this is the only one that shows an operating profit. It is not managed directly, but is leased to Señor J. A. Redondo, Santa Barbara, Venezuela.

Ferrocarril de Guanta a Naricual (Venezuelan capital) is 25 miles long and runs from the port of Guanta (situated east of La Guaira) to the city of Barcelona and the coal mines at Naricual. It was built under a guaranty of interest and was bought by the Government in 1895. The gauge is 3 feet 6 inches, the rail weighs 40 pounds to the yard, the maximum grade is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and the minimum curve radius 125 meters. There are 6 bridges with a combined length of 265 meters. The rolling stock consists of 3 locomotives weighing altogether 60 tons, 8 passenger coaches, 6 flat cars, and 6 box cars. The passenger tariff is $6\frac{3}{4}$ cents per mile for first class and 5 cents per mile second class, and the freight rate is equal to 34 cents per ton-mile. The capital investment is given as 5,199,745 bolivars. The gross income in 1892 was 109,445 bolivars, and with occasional and slight recoveries fell continually until, in 1913, it was only 58,625 bolivars. In 1915 receipts were 103,023 bolivars, or 8,124 bolivars less than expenditures.

Operated Through an Administrator.

The road is operated by the Government through an administrator who also manages the coal mines at Naricual, and the pier at Guanta. In October, 1915, the Neverí River was declared open to coastwise navigation. This decision caused a great decrease in the amount of cargo carried by the railway between the city of Barcelona and the port of Guanta, so that now the line is almost entirely dependent upon the freight paid by coal from the mines at Naricual. The address of the manager is Señor Juan G. Aldrey, administrador del Ferrocarril de Guanta a Naricual, Barcelona, Venezuela.

Ferrocarril de Carenero (French capital) is 34 miles long and runs from the coasting port of Carenero along the coast, serving the cocoa-producing section known as the "Barlovento." The gauge is 3 feet, and the rail runs 40 pounds to the yard. Rolling stock consists of 5 locomotives weighing altogether 90 tons, 5 passenger coaches, 6 flat cars, 22 box cars, and 9 stock cars. The passenger tariff equals 6.28 cents per mile, and the freight rate 46.6 cents per ton-mile. Despite these rates the line has shown a favorable balance in only four years out of the last 27. The heaviest traffic was in 1910, when 9,937 tons of freight were transported. In 1915 tonnage was 7,506, and the gross income was 312,614 bolivars, or 21,749 bolivars less than expenses. The road's management also runs a steamship line between Carenero and La Guaira. The owner is Sr. Victor

Crassus of Caracas, and the manager is Sr. R. E. Crassus of Rio Chico, Venezuela.

Built with Venezuelan Capital.

Ferrocarril de Coro a la Vela (Venezuelan capital) is only $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and its construction cost 1,040,000 bolivars (\$200,720). It connects the port of La Vela with the city of Coro, and is national property. It is operated by Sr. José M. Capriles as agent of the Government. The road has 2 locomotives, 1 passenger car, 1 flat car, and 1 box car. Gross receipts were 68,098 bolivars in 1898, and 35,893 bolivars in 1915. For the $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles the price of passage is 2 bolivars (38.6 cents), and the freight on a ton of merchandise 20 bolivars (\$3.86). Lower rates have been authorized for freight, but in the correspondence it was stated that these were to be temporary, lasting only until the carters gave up competing with the railway and found other employment. At present the line barely pays expenses.

Representatives of the Caribbean Coal Co. appeared before the last session of Congress seeking a concession for the building of a railway from their coal lands on Maracaibo Lake to deep water on the Caribbean Sea.

The Gran Ferrocarril del Tachira holds a concession for 20 years from 1913 for the extension of its line to the city of San Cristobal, and a preference for building thence to Periquera at the junction of the Apure and Uribante Rivers. The latter would extend into the plains, and would develop a large section of good cattle country.

Other Extensions and Lines.

The Bolivar Railway contemplates several extensions and branches at some future time, but, aside from the Palma Sola-San Felipe branch, construction is not expected soon.

The Gran Ferrocarril de Venezuela has a concession for the extension of its line from Valencia to San Carlos and the preferential right to construct a branch from Cagua to Villa de Cura and Calobozo, both San Carlos and Calobozo being situated in good but slightly developed cattle country.

A railway 108 kilometers long from Valencia westward through five towns to Nirgua in the State of Yaracuy has often been suggested, but as the country is rough it is possible that such a line could not be built cheaply enough to pay. The manager of the Puerto Cabello-Valencia Railway was granted a concession for a cableway over this route.

The excellence of the harbor of Guanta has suggested many projects for roads thence into the interior, but as these districts are practically uninhabited every one of the proposed roads would have to await a problematical development of the country before getting returns.

In the southernmost States of Venezuela and in eastern Colombia land values are merely nominal, but with adequate transportation this would be one of the great meat-producing areas of the world, with the advantage of being thousands of miles nearer to consuming centers than Australia or the River Plate. Running for the most part over level, treeless plains, a railway would not be costly, but notwithstanding this fact there is no indication that its construction is being considered at present.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Machinery, No. 22776.—A firm in Spain engaged in the forwarding and commission business informs an American consular officer of its desire to import from the United States machines for the manufacture of steel springs used in connection with railway rails. A sample of the spring and a drawing of the same may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79984.) Correspondence in English.

Perforating machine, No. 22777.—An American consular officer in Switzerland reports that a wood-pulp factory in his district is in the market for an American perforating machine, driven by motor, by means of which holes with a maximum diameter of 40 millimeters may be pierced in iron and steel plates. Machine is to be used in repair shop.

Machinery, etc., No. 22778.—A civil engineer in Venezuela informs an American consular officer that he wishes to receive catalogues and information regarding all classes of materials and machinery used in working concrete. Correspondence in English.

Wire nails, No. 22779.—An American consular officer in Portugal writes that a merchant in his district is in the market for wire nails. Sizes are indicated on a sketch, which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 79587.) Samples are desired. Prices f. o. b. New Orleans. Correspondence in English. Reference.

Hemp and machinery, No. 22780.—The president of a cordage manufacturing company in Norway, now in the United States, is in the market for light hemp for making twine and rope. Annual requirements about 500 tons. He also desires to purchase additional equipment and machinery for manufacturing rope. Quotations c. i. f. destination. Reference. Correspondence in English.

Machinery, No. 22781.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France reports that a firm engaged in the manufacture of adhesive paper tape and paper seals is in the market for machinery and appliances of all kinds connected with the manufacture of that article. A sample of the tape and paper seals may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 1899.)

Machinery, No. 22782.—An importer of and dealer in metal and wood working machinery in Switzerland informs an American consular officer of his desire to receive catalogues, prices and terms, etc., of wood-working machinery, lathes for metal working, boring machinery for metal, iron vices, disk-saw machines, and shaping machines. Exclusive agencies of American manufacturers are desired.

Towels, No. 22783.—An American consular officer in Canada writes that a manufacturers' agent in his district desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of cotton bath and hand towels. References.

Dry goods, hardware, etc., No. 22784.—An American consular officer in China transmits the name of a leading Chinese firm in his district which desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of soap, wire, galvanized iron, nails, cotton and woolen piece goods, leather, sugar, cheap blankets, thread, gunny bags, glass, wall paper, condensed milk in tins, linoleum table covers, velvet and corduroy, shoe polish, buttons, barbers' clippers and scissors, cement, horseshoes, and flour, etc. The firm is also in a position to export soya beans, soya-bean oil, and "tussah," or the reeled wild silk from which pongee fabrics are woven. Samples where possible are desired.

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RULES FOR DRY-DOCKING IN CANAL ZONE.

Following the placing of the new dry dock, No. 1, in service at Balboa, the Panama Canal made public the rules that will govern the docking of vessels in the dry docks belonging to the Canal, including in its statement a schedule of the fees that will be charged for the service and other information of value to owners or masters of ships planning to make use of these docks. A copy of the new rules—which apply to both the 1,000-foot dock at Balboa and the 300-foot dock at Cristobal—may be obtained by those interested from the Chief of Office, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C.

LIGNITE DEPOSITS IN SICILY.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Catania, Italy, Sept. 12.]

The recent discovery of deposits of lignite in the Province of Messina is of considerable interest to Sicilian manufacturers and users of steam power. This product, more commonly known as brown coal, is compact, partially carbonized, and forms a fuel intermediate between peat and true coal. The mineral has been found on the property of Sig. Settimo Mingrino, in the Passo del Urni (Sicily N. E.). Active mining has commenced, and about 100 men are employed. The daily output is between 25 and 35 tons.

Although operations are carried on at less than 20 feet from the surface, examinations which have been made indicate that the deposit is of considerable depth and has a surface area of practically 30,000 square yards. The quality is pronounced excellent.

The result of the analysis of this lignite is not yet available, but it is stated that certain valuable chemical properties have been found, making this discovery of greater importance than was at first realized. The owner is endeavoring to form a company for the development of the mine.

[Samples of lignite from the mine mentioned in this report may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81317.]

PEANUT SHELLERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN TRADE.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave, Madagascar, Aug. 1.]

Peanuts are grown to some extent in Madagascar, by the natives, principally in the villages of the interior. About 18,000 acres are said to be devoted to their culture.

There is very little foreign commerce in this article, which is sold principally on the local market, and exported in small quantities to the neighboring islands of Reunion and Mauritius, to be used in the production of oil for the Indian population.

Places Where Demand May be Created.

Apparently there is very little demand for peanut shellers in Madagascar, but American manufacturers might be able to interest some firms in Mauritius and Reunion in them. The various hardware dealers in Madagascar, particularly those at Tananarive, the capital, in the interior, may also be interested.

The collector of customs at Tamatave states that the French customs tariff No. 525*sex*, on complete apparatus not specified, will be applicable to such machines when imported into Madagascar and Reunion, the maximum and minimum rates being 15 and 10 francs per 100 kilos (\$1.31 and \$0.88 per 100 pounds), respectively. Machines from the United States are subject to the higher rate. The maximum rate is payable on the gross weight, and the minimum rate on the net weight. In addition to the customs duty, merchandise imported into Reunion is subject to an octroi de mer tax. The same machines will be dutiable when imported into Mauritius, according to tariff No. 80, at 1.82 rupees per 1,000 kilos (\$0.02 per 100 pounds). Crane dues, for the use of the Government crane in lifting heavy goods, are charged at the rate of 2 rupees per 1,000 kilos (\$0.03 per 100 pounds), except on machinery, which is 1 rupee per 1,000 kilos.

Methods Employed in Importing Goods.

The greater portion of the merchandise sold in Madagascar is imported by large French firms which are supplied by their headquarters in France. The purely local firms usually pass their orders through French commission houses. Previous to the war, goods were sent out from France to these local houses against acceptances of 30 or 90 days, or with sight drafts, with or without bills of lading attached. Under present conditions, the tendency is to demand cash with order. Some firms, however, are able to have the usual credit facilities continued in their favor. Merchandise is usually billed to Madagascar importers c. i. f. destination or nearest local port, and correspondence with local firms, except the American and British houses, should be in the French language.

Practically all merchandise imported into Madagascar comes usually from or via Marseille, Havre, or Bordeaux by the ships of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, or Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire de Navigation à Vapeur. Recently there have been obstacles to shipping merchandise from the United States via those ports on through bills of lading. This has been a hindrance to continuing or establishing business in some lines between Madagascar and the United States.

Occasionally the Union Castle or Clan Line ships come to Madagascar when they have taken on at New York any considerable quantity of goods for this island.

Conditions Surrounding Trade of Reunion.

As in the case of Madagascar, nearly all classes of merchandise imported into Reunion are purchased largely through French commission houses by direct correspondence. As a rule, all French concerns quote goods c. i. f. destination, usually Pointe-des-Galets, the principal port of Reunion. Correspondence should be in French.

The usual methods of effecting payment for merchandise ordered through Mauritius brokerage firms are: (a) By draft at 15 or 30 days' sight, with interest at 6 per cent per annum from the date of invoice to the approximate due date of arrival of the remittance at the place of the drawer, and if the merchandise is purchased through an export commission house, 3 per cent commission to the latter; (b) draft at 90 or 120 days, from date of invoice, documents against acceptance, with interest at 6 per cent, as above, and a commission of 5½ per cent to the export commission house; (c) draft without documents attached, to be collected either through local banks or financial agents.

According to Ordinance No. 46, of 1898, on each bill of exchange, promissory note or acceptance, etc., drawn out of Mauritius and expressed to be payable or actually paid or indorsed, or in any manner negotiated in Mauritius, there is a stamp tax of 0.25 rupee (\$0.08), for those not exceeding 500 rupees (\$162), in value, to 20 rupees (\$6.49), for those not exceeding 40,000 rupees (\$12,977). For each additional 10,000 rupees (\$3,244), or part thereof, the duty is increased by 5 rupees (\$1.62).

European Firms' Agencies at Port Louis.

Besides the large volume of business done through commission houses, European firms have placed agencies with the more important firms in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, to which merchandise is shipped on open credit or on consignment.

Prices quoted in Indian rupees or pounds sterling, c. i. f. Port Louis, are preferable, the rupee being valued 15 to the pound sterling. The most available shipping route to Mauritius from New York and other eastern ports in the United States is via South Africa, over the Union Castle Line, which has a ship to Mauritius from South African ports at least once every month. In normal times transatlantic lines, especially those running from New York to ports in France, issue through bills of lading for the islands of this section of the Indian Ocean. Correspondence with Mauritian firms may be in English or French.

Lists of concerns in Reunion and Mauritius which might be interested in peanut shellers and of hardware dealers in Madagascar are forwarded. Information as to their financial standing may possibly be obtained from the following sources:

For Madagascar—The Colonial Department of the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, 14 Rue Bergere, Paris, France, or the local branch offices of that institution at Tananarive, Tamatave,

Majunga, or Diego-Suarez; South African agency of R. G. Dun & Co., P. O. Box 672, Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope.

For Reunion—The Banque de la Reunion, St. Denis, Reunion; Société Bourbonnaise de Credit, St. Denis, Reunion; South African agency of R. G. Dun & Co.

For Mauritius—The Bank of Mauritius, Port Louis, Mauritius; The Commercial Bank of Mauritius (Ltd.), Port Louis; South African agency of R. G. Dun & Co.

[Lists of the firms at Port Louis, Mauritius, and in Reunion may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80614.]

AMERICAN AND BRITISH SHIPBUILDING.

The steel merchant shipbuilding in progress on September 30, 1916, in the principal shipbuilding districts of the United States and of the United Kingdom, according to returns to the United States Bureau of Navigation from American shipbuilders (including ships ordered but not begun) and according to Lloyds' returns from British shipbuilders (covering only ships the construction of which has actually begun), were as follows:

United States.			United Kingdom.		
District.	Number.	Construction, gross tons.	District.	Number.	Construction, gross tons.
Delaware River.....	90	419,213	Newcastle.....	77	401,935
Great Lakes.....	69	216,045	Glasgow.....	74	319,332
Chesapeake Bay.....	41	213,796	Greenock.....	57	285,380
San Francisco Bay.....	35	211,628	Belfast.....	26	261,280
Puget Sound and Columbia River.....	32	182,090	Sunderland.....	55	220,094
All others.....	150	211,497	All others.....	179	281,362
Total.....	417	1,454,270	Total.....	469	1,789,054

PASSENGERS FROM ARGENTINA USE PANAMA CANAL.

[Panama Canal Record, Oct. 4.]

Increasing numbers of persons bound from Argentina, notably Buenos Aires, for the United States are making the voyage by way of the Panama Canal. They go to Valparaiso over the Transandean Railway and embark there for the Canal Zone on one of the two lines plying between Chile and the Atlantic terminus of the canal. The voyage to Balboa takes about 15 days, and close connections are usually made on the Isthmus with ships for the United States, which are at sea from five to eight days.

Two of the steamship lines which are interested in this traffic have agencies in Argentina. The distance from Valparaiso to New York, sailing direct to and from the canal, is 4,633 nautical miles, of which 1,970 miles are on the Atlantic. From Buenos Aires to New York direct is 5,871 miles; via Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, and Pernambuco, 6,004 miles. The railway journey from Buenos Aires to Valparaiso requires about a day and a half; in the winter the trains are frequently delayed by snows.

AMERICAN LUMBER IN REBUILDING OF EUROPE.

The substantial share that the United States will have in meeting the needs of Europe for lumber at the close of the war was discussed this afternoon before the Forest Industry Conference at Portland, Oreg., by Dr. Edward Ewing Pratt, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. He predicted that the huge demand for this class of material would amount to a billion dollars during the first year after the close of hostilities; and stated that a large proportion of the grades desired would be for temporary construction and rebuilding, wood paving blocks, rough construction, railway ties, car building, etc. No doubt, also, there would be a continued and increased demand for the finer grades of American lumber, particularly hardwoods.

American lumbermen were told that there would be not only an opportunity but a duty to sell their products during the coming period when the destruction wrought by war would have to be repaired. In a survey of the sources of supply, Dr. Pratt said:

It is easy to anticipate what countries will compete for the privilege of supplying this lumber. We can not expect to do all the business. We shall be lucky if we are able to do even a major part of the business. In the year 1913 we shipped more wood products than any other country in the world, amounting to a total of \$115,000,000 worth in all. In the same year Russia shipped \$88,000,000 worth; Sweden \$84,000,000, Austria-Hungary \$68,000,000, Canada \$50,000,000, Finland \$47,000,000, Germany \$26,000,000, Norway \$24,000,000, Roumania \$5,000,000. The total European exportation, therefore amounted to \$392,000,000 and the combined Canadian and American exportations amounted to \$165,000,000, making a total from these, the chief lumber exporting countries of the world, of approximately \$550,000,000. Of course, all this lumber did not go to Europe. Sweden, Norway, Germany, and Austria shipped lumber all over the world, but naturally the great bulk of their output went to Europe.

We know that the rebuilding of Poland and western Russia will absorb Russian energies for some time after the close of the war. We know that Germany is using up her forest reserves; we know that Norway has long been overcutting her annual growth. We can therefore safely predict that the greatest European competition will come from the mills of Sweden and Finland. These countries are icebound during six months of the year, usually from October to May. The lumbermen of this country can readily see, therefore, the possibilities and the responsibilities that lie before them.

Dr. Pratt discussed ways and means of marketing the American product to the best advantage. The recent formation of the Douglas Fir Export Sales Co. was a step in the right direction, he said. The proposed investigation of European markets for lumber by experts selected by the lumbermen in cooperation with the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce was also commended. In concluding he outlined what the Government has done and stands willing to do to help the lumber industry take advantage of the opportunities that will soon be presented.

French Firms Interested in Central Heating Supplies.

A list of the firms composing the membership of the French "Syndical Chamber of Heating by Hot Water and Steam" may be obtained by American manufacturers of boilers and supplies for central heating plants upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80625.

CHANGES IN GUATEMALAN TRADE.

[Consul Stuart Lupton, Guatemala City, Aug. 24.]

The annual report of the Director General of the Guatemalan Customs Service for 1915 states that the total value of the imports into the country during that year amounted to but \$3,973,139, American gold, as compared with \$7,348,543 in 1914. Each one of the 20 classes into which the imports are divided shows a loss, except jute, the greatest decrease being in cotton goods and unclassified articles.

The increase in the imports of hemp and jute is explained by the fact that jute bags were necessary for the shipment of coffee, and prices for them had increased. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining sufficient sacks for the crop. Efforts have been made to substitute heavy cotton sacks for this purpose, but it is reported that they are unsatisfactory, as the use of tryers breaks up the fabric, causing a loss of the contents.

Principal Imports.

The following table gives the imports in the various classes for 1914 and 1915:

Class.	1914	1915	Class.	1914	1915
Cotton manufactures	\$1,289,105	\$785,570	Drugs and medicines	\$270,688	\$108,086
Linen, hemp, and jute	224,764	252,481	Flour	509,280	506,579
Woolen manufactures	220,620	52,308	Timber	111,796	78,067
Silk manufactures	221,169	68,639	Industrial and agricultural		
Iron and steel	515,517	121,198	machinery	374,593	137,433
Copper, lead, tin, etc	25,264	18,416	Railway materials	423,226	131,843
Wood and iron	199,143	86,727	Petroleum	182,117	110,886
Crockery and glass	123,725	27,859	Wines and liquors	245,876	126,883
Leather	143,448	94,661	Unclassified	1,469,166	543,636
Foodstuffs	545,087	538,236			
Paper, etc.	165,399	147,243	Total	7,348,543	3,973,139
Coal	49,682	46,898			

Including freight and other charges on the merchandise imported, the director arrives at a total of \$5,072,476 for 1915, which amount is divided among the various countries as follows:

Country.	Value.	Country.	Value.
United States	\$3,751,762	Denmark	\$4,837
England	577,206	South America	4,119
Germany	146,053	Switzerland	2,532
France	124,492	Central America	2,932
Netherlands	87,825	Mexico	1,622
Japan and China	78,785	Jamaica	1,114
Spain	77,628	Portugal	309
Italy	55,964	Canada	173
Sweden	32,170	Mexico (by land)	106,032
Belgium	10,578		
Cuba	5,318	Total	5,072,476

The United States supplied a large percentage of the imports, but the war in Europe made a great difference in the share of each country.

The Export Trade.

Of the total exports valued at \$11,566,586, the shipments of coffee amounted to \$8,949,441. The next most important article of export is bananas, which was valued at \$1,082,429. The principal items of export and their value were as follows:

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Coffee.....	\$8,949,441	Chicle.....	\$231,824	Other articles.....	\$175,792
Hides.....	506,962	Manufactures of wool.	2,048	Various, by land to	
Wood.....	176,231	Other agricultural	9,044	Central America.....	10,150
Bananas.....	1,082,429	products.....		Total.....	11,566,583
Rubber.....	49,331	Other industrial	40,806		
Sugar.....	232,728	products.....			

The United States took practically 60 per cent of the total exports, as compared with 38 per cent in 1914, but the most noticeable change was in the Netherlands, which country shows an increase of more than 900 per cent. Large increases are also noted in the case of Switzerland and Denmark.

The share of the various countries in the export trade was as follows:

Country.	Value.	Country.	Value.	Country.	Value.
United States.....	\$6,881,410	Denmark.....	\$201,043	Italy.....	\$45,848
Netherlands.....	1,771,241	Mexico.....	143,667	Spain.....	23,012
Great Britain.....	1,322,271	Central America.....	134,172	Other countries.....	11,672
Switzerland.....	550,903	Norway.....	61,386	Total.....	11,566,583
South America.....	366,714	Germany.....	50,237		

There were 565 steamers, with a tonnage of 975,801, that touched at Guatemalan ports during 1915. Of this tonnage 701,464 was American.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22- Nov. 1.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany	do	Do.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	C/o Mr. C. B. Hauptman, Fife Building, San Francisco, Cal., until Oct. 30.

COOPERATION AMONG DUTCH FARMERS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 3.]

The war has had great effect in extending and increasing cooperation in agricultural affairs in the Netherlands.

Before the war the Dutch farmers realized that power and influence came from cooperation. There arose cooperative buying associations, butter and cheese factories, potato-flour factories, live-stock societies, milk-control societies, etc. The State provided a good system of agricultural instruction, and this acted as a propaganda for cooperation. In the Province of Friesland cooperation became particularly strong and effective, and its creameries are pointed to as an example for the whole world. The necessity of a foreign agricultural representative being apparent, an agency was established in London, whereby, it is stated, the exports of Dutch dairy and meat products were much increased.

Cooperation and the Foreign Trade—Financial Conditions.

Thus, before the war agricultural cooperation was well rooted in the Netherlands, but it was comparatively weak in respect to import and export. Organization and united effort on these lines have been special aims since the war began. As to imports, Dutch farmers are particularly interested in fertilizers, which are used everywhere in the Netherlands, and cooperation has been so effective that Government aid has been enlisted and prices and supplies have been satisfactorily controlled since the war began. Other important articles required by the farmers have also been similarly dealt with through cooperation, without which the import difficulties caused by the war might have been difficult to overcome.

On the export side, also, cooperation among the farmers has become sufficiently strong since the war began to overcome great difficulties. A large share of the country's agricultural prosperity since the war began is thus apparently due to cooperation among the farmers.

On the financial side, also, cooperation among farmers has much increased and solidified. This is evidenced by the extension of rural banking. For example, the number of branch loan banks of which the Cooperative Central Bank at Utrecht is the head has increased from 500 to 520, while the operations of the banks have expanded in a much greater ratio. A significant fact is that while the total amount of deposits at the central bank in Utrecht trebled, the total amount of loans decreased more than one-half in 1915, as compared with 1914; which, of course, is considered as evidence that the Dutch farmers in the locality where this bank operates have become so prosperous that they are lenders rather than borrowers. This evidence is emphasized by the fact that dealers during this war are unable or indisposed, generally, to give the usual credit to farmers; and naturally it would be expected that the farmers' borrowing would increase instead of diminish, as the figures of the Utrecht bank indicate.

Consul Frank W. Mahin, of Amsterdam, reports that according to information received from a local commercial bureau, the number of business failures in the Netherlands during the first nine months of this year was 809, against 1,059 in January-September, 1915.

MOTION-PICTURE BUSINESS IN NORTH HONDURAS.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Ceiba, Sept. 28.]

There is not a playhouse for the spoken drama on the north coast of Honduras, and in the Ceiba consular district the only public amusements are motion-picture shows, of which there are two, one in Ceiba, the other in Tela. The house in Ceiba gives three shows a week—Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Both of these houses secure their films from Guatemala City. The Ceiba theater presents from 5,000 to 8,000 feet of film at each performance—French and Italian, and occasionally one from the United States; in the latter case usually a "wild west" film with cowboys and Indians, always popular with local audiences and provocative of boisterous applause. All comic and western films go well here. The foreign films are frequently of the society-drama type, which are less favored.

Refreshments Served During Intermission in Ceiba Theater.

The Tivoli Theater in Ceiba seats 1,000. The entire front of the frame structure is occupied by the "cantina," where soft drinks, beer, wines, and liquors are served, as well as sandwiches. On the first presentation of a film the admission prices are 1.25, 1, and 0.50 pesos, local currency, equivalent in United States gold to 51.25, 41, and 20.5 cents. On the second presentation of a film the scale of admission is 1, 0.75, and 0.25 peso (41, 30.75, and 10.25 cents). When the lower scale prevails the house is often filled to capacity.

Usually the show begins at 8 o'clock and lasts until 11, with an intermission, which gives an opportunity to visit the "cantina," although drinks are served to patrons in their seats. Outside several little carts dispense popcorn, which meets with a ready sale, and the street vendors also sell native cakes and sweetmeats and "frescos," or cool drinks, consisting mostly of shaved ice and fruit sirup. The local American population contributes but little to the attendance.

Expenses are comparatively heavy. Frequently the box-office receipts do not meet them, but the bar makes up the deficiency. The cost of the films is \$18 gold a night. The proprietor (Mr. J. Figols) says that if he obtained his films from the United States they would cost him \$23 a night, but he has had an offer from the Cuban office of an American concern to supply him with films for a period of three months at 1 cent per foot. As his contract for the Guatemala films has six months to run, he has not been able to close with this offer.

Tela Theater Negotiating for American Films.

Dr. R. H. Wilson is lessee of the theater in Tela, which seats 400 persons and does a good business one night a week. Formerly it gave four shows a week, but now it is open only on Sundays. Like the Tivoli Theater, in Ceiba, it is on the Guatemala circuit, and therefore it has to use French and Italian films, although the American films are more popular. The price paid is \$4 per 1,000 feet for 30 days.

Dr. Wilson has been in negotiation with the manager of the cinematograph in San Pedro Sula for the use of that theater's films, which are procured from the United States, but the best terms offered him, he says, are 50 per cent of the gross receipts. The Tela theater

presents 8,000 feet of film at a performance, which lasts an hour and a half, and the admission price is 1, 0.50, and 0.25 peso (41, 20.5, and 10.25 cents).

There is no duty on rented films.

[For articles on the motion-picture situation in the Tegucigalpa district see COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 24, 1915, and Sept. 21, 1916.]

CHINESE COMPANY USES AMERICAN TRACTORS.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Sept. 11.]

The Sanda Cultivation & Pasturage Co., which has headquarters at Shanghai, purchased in 1915 a large-type tractor and a complete outfit of plows, seeders, harrows, and other tillage implements for use on its areas in Manchuria. An American mechanic put the machinery into operation, and last spring 600 acres were plowed and seeded to wheat. The crop is now being harvested, and averages a satisfactory yield, considering that the soil is new and was seeded for the first time. The second year's yield is expected to be greater if weather conditions are normal.

The company was so pleased with the first tractor that it has placed an order for four more complete medium tractors with outfits, and in addition has ordered grain-harvesting self-binders and thrashing machines. The tractors and other machines are of the latest designs, and the engines are of the kerosene-burning type with modern equipment. The company expects to have fully 3,000 acres plowed and seeded in wheat for 1917, and anticipates good results.

Chinese Realize that Machines Will Solve Problem.

Climatic conditions and insect pests in Northern Manchuria render farm profits uncertain. About 50 per cent of the working animals succumb to large horse flies during the short summer. The Chinese realize that the tractors will solve this problem. Several attempts at farming with tractors have been made in the past four years, but the Sanda Co., of Shanghai, claims to have made the first real beginning. Those concerned believe that another of the world's storehouses of wheat will be opened up in Manchuria, and that as a result increasing quantities of suitable agricultural machinery will be required there.

The Sanda Cultivation & Pasturage Co., which has offices at No. 11 Szechuen Road, Shanghai, China, was organized by Mr. Lee Yung Su, proprietor and manager of the Lee Chong Ching Dong Land & Estate Co., which owns much property at Shanghai. The capital of the company is about \$145,000. This amount, it is stated, will be increased in the near future, if the experimental farming now being carried on at Humahsien proves successful. Mr. Lee states that the company owns 10,000 acres of land in the district where this work has been done, although the holdings of the organization are generally assumed to be upward of 30,000 acres.

The New York & Cuba Mail Steamship Co. (Ward Line) has inaugurated a passenger and freight service between New York, the Canal Zone, and Pacific ports of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico, via the Panama Canal direct.

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR AMERICAN HOUSES.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sept. 7.]

The fact that during the past year British, French, Belgian, American, and German chambers of commerce have been organized in Buenos Aires indicates a tendency on the part of the representatives of various countries to line up under their respective merchant flags in the keen struggle for commerce that is to take place from now on, and especially after the termination of the European war. American exporters and manufacturers should arrange more and more for the sale of their products in this and other foreign markets through loyal American citizens influenced and stimulated by considerations of patriotism. This should not be difficult, in view of the number of American commission houses already established in this country, either as head offices here or as branches of parent concerns in the United States.

Energetic and Experienced Americans in Field.

There is in Buenos Aires a growing number of energetic and experienced Americans who have opened brokerage and commission offices for import and export goods in a great variety of lines, and it would be advisable for our manufacturers and exporters to deal with such agents. It is realized that there are certain worthy exceptions where cosmopolitan houses in this city are doing a splendid trade in American goods, side by side with similar or different articles imported from other countries. This is only so because they are cosmopolitan houses, but even in such cases the question arises whether solely American representatives here would not still be preferable. It is thought that our manufacturers and exporters can not give too much attention to this important feature of their foreign trade.

LOW-PRICED ADDING MACHINES FOR SPAIN.

Having noticed that Seville offers a possible market for adding machines of the cheaper types, Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, now on leave in the United States, desires to familiarize himself with the lower-priced American makes before returning to his post in Spain. The consul will be in New York from November 1 to 7, and appointments to meet him may be made through the branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in that city, at room 409, customhouse.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

EXPORTS FROM AMSTERDAM TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 8.]

The exports from the Amsterdam district to the United States during the quarter ended September 30, 1916, continued at the unusually great quantity and value which marked the two preceding quarters of this year, the total declared value being \$8,661,164. The value for the quarter ended March 31 was \$8,413,029; and for the quarter ended June 30, \$13,109,513, making a total of \$30,183,706 for the first nine months of this year, which is larger than the total for any corresponding period in the history of this consulate.

As usual, diamonds led in the exports for the quarter ended September 30, the declared value thereof being \$6,099,154. The next item in value was tobacco, \$1,306,845; then came cocoa and its products, \$209,971; cinchona bark, \$207,636; quinine, \$162,635; bulbs, \$118,341; rage, \$109,134; hides and skins, \$92,824. No other item reached \$50,000, the nearest being potash, \$48,866.

Comparison of this year's total export and the export of diamonds and tobacco, the principal articles, with the exports of several preceding years, appears in the following table:

First 9 months of—	Total value, all exports.	Diamonds.	Tobacco.
1912.....	\$20,485,847	\$8,825,330	\$6,575,730
1913.....	22,823,671	10,407,063	7,202,517
1914.....	20,574,377	5,138,068	8,545,065
1915.....	13,284,800	5,517,899	4,412,972
1916.....	30,183,706	16,266,060	8,296,472

The gain this year in comparison with the preceding years is almost entirely in diamonds. The gain in diamonds is due partly to increased prices, but chiefly to the transfer to Amsterdam of the business done at Antwerp before the war.

SWISS MUSICAL-INSTRUMENT INDUSTRY.

[From Swiss Export Trade Annual, forwarded by Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall, Sept. 21.]

Music has always played an important part in the life of the Swiss people. The invention and development of the bellows, its combination with the electric motor, the application of electric releasing apparatus, from which there was but one step to the keyboard worked by electricity—all these brought organ building in Switzerland to a high degree of perfection, thus carrying its repute into foreign countries. Swiss organ builders became world renowned. Since 1864 the oldest two Swiss firms engaged in making these instruments have finished almost 1,000 organs with single, hydraulic, and bellows working.

The Swiss manufacture of pianos may be traced as far back as the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1842 and 1847 the first Swiss piano factories were established, followed by others in the years between 1870 and 1880. A certain decentralization in this line of manufacture made itself felt in a most advantageous manner, which greatly and beneficially influenced the quality of the instruments, for the various mechanical parts and keyboards are now made by special manufacturers by means of precision machines, whereas the piano factories devote their experience and labor to a harmonious con-

struction. They are provided with modern and effective drying chambers for the necessary treatment of the wood so that it remains unchanged against the influences of the weather or the tropics, a fact of special importance for the export trade. More than 80,000 instruments have left Swiss factories, and today the monthly production in 8 factories is as many as 200 instruments of high quality.

Successful Manufacture of Pianolas.

Of more recent date is the manufacture of pianolas, which also has met with success. The two systems, Phonola and Dea, have a good reputation. Concertinas are produced chiefly in the district of Langnau. They are very carefully made in small quantities, and are said to be superior to others on account of the clearness and softness of the tone. The manufacture of wind instruments is carried on particularly in the Canton of Berne, where it became established about the middle of the last century. Originally it was the turners who took up the manufacture of wooden wind instruments. Gradually they began to occupy themselves by making valveless brass instruments, key bugles, and finally valve instruments. Today Switzerland possesses a well-known permanent industry of wind instruments which have their principal seats in the Cantons of Berne, Aargau, and Basel.

The manufacturers of string instruments—the oldest firm in this line started at the beginning of the last century—have refrained from manufacturing instruments on a large scale, and have paid great attention to quality.

The construction of orchestrons, phonographs, and gramophones should be mentioned. These are made principally at St. Croix, a town which works especially for the export trade.

CROP OUTLOOK IN ANDALUSIA.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, Sept. 25.]

The outlook for wheat and other grains is generally good. Higher prices are being received for all except wheat and canary seed, which are slightly lower than in 1915, though their yield this season shows a 20 per cent gain over last year.

The vintage is now in progress, with estimates of a 10 per cent increase in production coupled with improved quality, the alcoholic content running from 11° to 12° on sandy lands and 13° to 15½° on chalky soils. Prices for must are lower than last year.

The olive crop is poor and is said to average not more than 60 per cent of last year's harvest. Prices are correspondingly higher. A large proportion of the fruit is spotted by disease.

Trade Directories of Netherlands East Indies.

There are on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district and cooperative offices a published copy of an importer's and exporter's directory of the Netherlands East Indies. These directories contain the names of importers and exporters, with a list of the articles handled by each, and were compiled with the object of furnishing information to those who wish to open trade relations with the Netherlands East Indies.

PHOTOPLAYS POPULAR IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Sept. 29.]

Motion-picture shows, or "cines," as they are termed here, constitute a popular form of entertainment in Guatemala. There are five such theaters in Guatemala City, one in Quezaltenango, and one in Retalhuleu. During the week performances are given only in the evening; on Sundays there are two exhibitions. The patronage is especially good on Sunday.

The price of admission ranges from 7 to 30 cents United States gold. In case of special films the prices are advanced. Each theater gives one performance of six to eight reels, some three-fourths of the program being a single feature such as "Quo Vadis," "Nero," or an historical incident. The remainder consists generally of a comedy, a section of Pathé's Gazette, or an illustration of some industry. Film titles are almost always in Spanish, though occasionally one is in English and Spanish.

The most popular films are those of dramatic and serio-comic character. The majority of those heretofore shown have been European, the principal marks being Pathé, Gaumont, Itala, Roma, Torino, and Nordesk. Since the European war a few American films are coming in, but they seem, as did the European ones, to have had extremely hard service before being brought here. The average price paid for the European films is 10 to 15 cents gold per meter (meter = 3.28 feet). Very few films are brought from the United States, evidently on account of the cost, as the lowest price quoted was 8 cents gold per foot (equivalent to 26 cents a meter). A few films are rented from Europe at \$4 gold per reel, time limit six months.

Films pay customs duty of 1 peso per kilo (2.2 pounds), including weight of inside wrappings, but not that of outside packing case, half of which is paid in American gold and half in Guatemalan currency. The latter money being worth $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents to the peso, the duty paid amounts to 23 cents per pound.

[A list of motion-picture theaters in Guatemala and the addresses of three persons who are also interested in buying films may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81052.]

COTTON SHIPMENTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ended October 21, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia	36,916	Philadelphia	6,775	San Francisco	4,268
Massachusetts	827	South Carolina	5,805	Washington	15,642
Maryland	14,284	Virginia		Total	211,676
New York	19,263	Galveston	72,770		
North Carolina	5,715	New Orleans	29,411		

The exports of 211,676 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 1,571,874 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 167,516 bales for the week and 1,125,661 bales in the cotton year.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Electrical elevators, No. 3722.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1916, for the installation complete of an electric passenger elevator in each of the following buildings: Post office at Elkins, W. Va., post office and customhouse at Newport, R. I., and the post office and courthouse at Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Scientific instruments, No. 3723.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until November 4, 1916, for furnishing compasses, motometers, trouble shooters, aneroids, barographs, barometers, etc. (Proposal No. 884.)

Laboratory supplies, No. 3724.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, U. S. Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until November 8, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., albuminometers, Griffin beakers, dropping bottles, stender dishes, micro cover glasses, etc.

Lavatory buildings, No. 3725.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1916, for the construction of two brick lavatory buildings at Rosebud School, Rosebud, S. Dak.

Subsistence supplies, No. 3726.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, War Department, 115 E. Ontario St., Chicago, Ill., until October 30, 1916, for furnishing and delivering canned corned beef, canned fresh roast beef, ham, lard, etc.

Building construction, No. 3727.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 11, 1916, for a brick building with reinforced concrete footings, columns, beams, and floors, at the Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.

Subsistence supplies, No. 3728.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, U. S. Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until October 26, 1916, for furnishing and delivering potatoes, onions, oleomargarine, butter, bacon, cheese, ham, and compressed yeast.

Repair work, No. 3729.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, on board lighthouse tender Fern, at Seattle, Wash., for docking, painting, and miscellaneous repairs to deck and machinery. Further information may be obtained on application to the Lighthouse Inspector, Ketchikan, Alaska, or to the master of the vessel after its arrival at Seattle, Wash.

Well drilling, No. 3730.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for drilling an artesian well at the Naval Radio Station, Point Isabel, Tex. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the Commandant of the Naval Station, New Orleans.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3731.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 27, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, structural steel, anchor bolts, cafeteria counters, restaurant kitchen equipment, dish-washing machine, sugar bowls, knives, range boilers, sinks, saws, asbestos gaskets, roofing felt, nails, refrigerator doors, door and window hardware, and millwork. (Circular No. 1092).

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Street railway cars, No. 22785.—An American consular officer in South America reports that a local tramway company is in the market for four storage-battery street railway cars, preferably of the open type, seating 32 passengers, and equipped with motors which aggregate about 15 horsepower per car, for a track of 75-centimeter gauge. Correspondence in Spanish.

Machinery, etc., No. 22786.—The commercial attaché of the Department of Commerce in France writes that a firm engaged in the manufacture of gummed paper, cut paper, and cardboard, etc., desires American catalogues and quotations on label-printing machines, gumming machines, rolling and cutting machines, and in general any machinery and appliances used in connection with the manufacture of those lines.

Paper, No. 22787.—A manufacturer of paper flowers in Spain asks the Bureau to furnish him with the names of manufacturers of "silk" paper, a sample of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous No. 160.)

Fencing wire, No. 22788.—An American consular officer in Brazil reports that a firm in his district is in the market for fencing wire, round and oval-shaped. A sample of the round wire may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 80456). The oval-shaped wire should be of the same size. Correspondence in English.

Celluloid sheets, No. 22789.—An American consular officer in the United Kingdom writes that a firm of manufacturers in his district is desirous of purchasing celluloid sheets, which should be 25/1000, 30/1000, and 35/1000 of an inch in thickness. Dates of delivery and full particulars should be stated. Reference.

Lantern glass, No. 22790.—A firm in Norway engaged in the manufacture of lamps and lanterns informs an American consular officer of its desire to enter into commercial relations with American firms selling lantern glass. Correspondence in English. Reference.

Fishing tackle, etc., No. 22791.—An American consular officer in Russia transmits the name of a firm in his district which is in the market for all kinds of fishing supplies, and desires to enter into direct relations with American firms dealing in this line of goods. Correspondence should be in Russian.

Drugs and medicines, etc., No. 22792.—An American consular officer in Central America writes that a business man in his district is in the market for drugs, druggists' sundries, chemicals, patent medicines, toilet articles, and everything carried in a small drug store.

Machinery, No. 22793.—A business man in Australia informs an American consular officer of his desire to communicate with American manufacturers of machinery for coating ferroprussiate and ferrogallie papers and linens. The papers and linens are used for copying drawings, samples of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 78447.) The formulæ for coating the above-mentioned papers, and in the case of ferrogallie papers, the formulæ for coating papers only requiring water for development are also desired.

It is reported that the Transatlantic Steamship Co., of Goteborg, Sweden, will establish a regular service between Calcutta and New Orleans by way of the Panama Canal. The new line will permit of direct shipments between New Orleans and India, whereas, states the Panama Canal Record, in previous services it has been necessary to transfer cargo.

NOV 2 1916

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
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No. 252 Washington, D. C., Thursday, October 26 1916

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SWEDISH CONTROL OF FOODSTUFFS.

The Department of State is informed by the American minister at Stockholm, Sweden, that, owing to the increasing shortage of raw materials, especially foodstuffs, the Swedish Government has made preliminary arrangements to control and distribute such supplies.

PERUVIAN RAILWAY TO OPEN RICH MINERAL FIELD.

[American Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Sept. 19.]

By a decree dated September 9, 1916, Jose Balta was given authority to undertake the preliminary investigations for the construction, in the Department of La Libertad, of a railway which, when completed, will connect the rich mineral field of Sayapullo with railways already existing.

For some time there has been a tendency to undertake on a scale larger than heretofore the development of the mineral wealth of this section, and the authority just granted to Mr. Balta is but the first step in what may be expected to prove very important to the commercial and industrial life of the country.

URUGUAY'S FOREIGN TRADE FOR SIX MONTHS.

A comparison of the foreign trade of Uruguay for the first half of 1916 with that of the corresponding period of 1915, as shown in the Boletín del Ministerio de la Hacienda, shows a slight increase in imports and a falling off of nearly one-fourth in exports. The imports in the 1916 period amounted to 19,471,263 pesos (peso=\$1.034) compared with 19,323,078 in the corresponding half year of 1915, and the exports were 37,010,531 pesos compared with 48,355,437 in 1915.

The increase in the imports amounted to 148,185 pesos, or 0.77 per cent, and the decrease in exports was 11,344,906 pesos, or 23.46 per cent.

BRITISH PURCHASES OF AMERICAN FILMS.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, Sept. 14.]

American cinematograph films are popular throughout the United Kingdom. Fully 60 per cent of this class of productions shown here are of American manufacture, and the demand appears to be steadily increasing. The balance of the films shown appear to be chiefly British, French, and Italian.

The largest film-producing companies in Great Britain are: (1) The London Film Co., St. Margarets Studio, Twickenham, England, which is controlled by the Provincial Cinematograph Theaters (Ltd.), 199 Piccadilly, London, W., and which maintains and controls large cinematograph theaters in nearly every large city in the United Kingdom; (2) The Hepworth Manufacturing Co., 2 Denman Street, London; (3) Broadwest Film Co., 11 Denman Street, London.

The prices on films released for the open market—those which may be shown at more than one place at the same time—range from \$30 per 1,000 feet for the first three days of their release to \$1.25 per 1,000 feet after they have been in use for a few months. Those for which exclusive rights to exhibit have been granted bring from \$25 to \$250 per week, a fair average being \$30 per 1,000 feet for three days.

Customs Duty Has Not Lessened Demand.

There has been considerable agitation in the press in favor of limiting film imports into this country. It was thought for a time that the recent imposition of a customs duty of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per foot on blank films, 2 cents per foot on positive films, and 10 cents per foot on negative films would have a tendency to lessen the imports, but so far there has been no apparent diminution in the demand for foreign films.

Picture houses are well patronized in all sections of Great Britain, although the average price of admission is somewhat higher than in the United States. The prices outside of London generally range from 3d. (6 cents) to 1s. (24 cents), with an additional war tax, which came into force on May 15, 1916, and which varies according to the price of admission. Where the admission exceeds 2d. (4 cents), but does not exceed 6d. (12 cents), the tax is 1d. (2 cents). Where it exceeds 6d. (12 cents), but does not exceed 2s. 6d (60 cents), the tax is 2d. (4 cents).

This tax is always added to the cost of the ticket, and is paid by the public.

Terms of Sale and Method of Handling Business.

American films are usually imported through Liverpool or Southampton, and prices are quoted f. o. b. New York. The usual terms of sale, when American firms are selling to agents in London, are cash against documents, with a discount varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent. The common terms between English distributors and renters are cash against weekly invoices. To secure a footing in this market it is advisable to open a branch, or grant agency rights to some established firm. All the American film companies doing business in Great Britain have recognized this requirement. As London is the chief distributing center, it would be advisable to establish a branch

or agency there, for the amount of business to be done in Nottingham and district would hardly warrant the location of a general agency here.

Stories of Prominent Writers Preferred.

The present demand appears to be chiefly for films produced from the stories of prominent writers, particularly one-reel and two-reel dramas, with a leaning toward romance. This is attributed to the fact that most of the picture houses throughout this country are at present patronized largely by women and children. Apparently there is a good opening for the production of films illustrating American cities and life and reviews of current events, but there is no demand for war dramas, nor is any expected for some time.

Publications devoted to the interests of the cinema trade in this country are: (1) *The Kinematograph Weekly*, 9 Tottenham Street, London; (2) *The Bioscope*, 85 Shaftesbury Avenue, London; (3) *The Cinema*, 30 Gerrard Street, London.

A complete record of the theaters or cafés where films may be exhibited in this country can be obtained from the *Kinematograph Yearbook, Diary, and Directory*, price 2s. 10d. (68 cents), published by E. T. Heron & Co., 9 Tottenham Street, London, England.

[Lists of the names and addresses of film manufacturers, importers and agents of film renters, and manufacturers and agents of film apparatus, accessories, and film base in Great Britain, taken from the *Kinematograph Monthly Film Record*, and of dealers in films and supplies in Nottingham may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80582. A review of the British film market from the Bristol consulate was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 25, 1916.]

FREIGHT RATES FROM DUTCH EAST INDIES INCREASED.

[Consul B. S. Ralrden, Batavia, Java, Aug. 19.]

Beginning July 1, 1916, the combined steamship companies taking cargo from the Dutch East Indies to New York, the *Nederland Steamship Co.*, and the *Rotterdam Lloyd Steamship Co.* raised their freight rates 25 per cent all around. The rates now in force are: Per last of 1.89 tons—copra, 180 florins (\$72); pepper, 250 florins (\$100); rattan, 174 florins (\$69.60); tin, 140 florins (\$56); per cubic meter of 35.3 cubic feet—rubber, 82 florins (\$32.80); hats in bales and cases, 77 florins (\$30.80); hides and skins, 74 florins (\$29.60); kapok, 65 florins (\$26); fiber, 65 florins (\$26); tea, 84 florins (\$33.60).

The *Ocean Steamship Co.*, which at the beginning of this service to New York was included in the combine, has withdrawn its steamers, so that only Dutch steamers are now on this route.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

SEPTEMBER EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, OILS, ETC.

The usual monthly bulletin showing exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. It shows exports as follows:

Groups and articles.	September—		9 months ended September—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs.....dollars..	37,139,991	37,981,987	320,241,172	410,410,751
Cottonseed oil.....pounds..	8,326,238	22,647,280	148,831,158	282,671,972
Cattle, hogs, and sheep.....dollars..	947,376	1,555,169	14,912,313	19,933,615
Meat and dairy products.....dollars..	52,440	223,135	714,313	2,546,634
.....bales.....	21,115,299	17,102,817	195,688,049	189,262,443
.....pounds.....	536,811	501,581	4,730,804	6,801,001
Cotton.....pounds.....	282,646,453	282,676,088	2,435,945,003	3,442,639,615
.....dollars.....	44,431,582	28,535,161	324,043,790	307,312,309
Mineral oils.....gallons.....	264,081,965	214,738,871	1,943,577,170	1,733,623,641
.....dollars.....	20,834,186	12,337,098	153,739,332	105,139,669
Total.....dollars.....	124,520,874	97,736,167	1,009,338,969	1,034,625,551
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn.....bushels.....	3,116,834	764,847	41,241,489	40,300,644
.....dollars.....	2,963,551	641,898	34,999,816	32,845,878
Oats.....bushels.....	6,107,869	7,933,531	78,634,895	82,731,416
.....dollars.....	3,263,241	3,650,403	39,807,564	49,575,075
Wheat.....bushels.....	13,102,177	21,300,076	113,824,817	161,227,351
.....dollars.....	20,795,353	24,892,983	152,522,755	230,501,280
Flour.....barrels.....	1,085,101	1,003,011	11,212,723	11,184,912
.....dollars.....	6,750,352	5,607,029	63,169,047	71,599,871
Beef, canned.....pounds.....	3,562,894	1,313,910	39,191,437	61,116,625
.....dollars.....	825,679	199,840	8,617,535	9,513,515
Beef, fresh.....pounds.....	6,668,567	18,467,738	138,223,053	207,255,532
.....dollars.....	328,593	2,297,453	17,123,236	26,727,884
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds.....	2,457,523	3,990,731	22,852,066	35,032,026
.....dollars.....	232,462	465,805	2,478,053	3,810,817
Oleo oil.....pounds.....	10,494,734	12,619,167	65,053,947	76,405,749
.....dollars.....	1,478,405	1,463,092	8,629,392	9,210,915
Bacon.....pounds.....	48,318,883	42,724,835	423,423,995	368,988,455
.....dollars.....	7,711,970	5,463,788	60,367,401	48,744,726
Hams and shoulders.....pounds.....	17,144,950	17,587,570	209,407,303	207,794,305
.....dollars.....	2,918,881	2,423,982	31,814,495	28,827,929
Lard.....pounds.....	31,978,381	28,744,296	324,321,026	344,262,736
.....dollars.....	3,417,048	2,838,775	38,979,935	37,276,699
Neutral lard.....pounds.....	2,367,105	1,874,735	23,318,649	23,522,001
.....dollars.....	351,286	212,600	3,001,721	2,672,622
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds.....	4,235,552	6,744,007	84,559,081	48,261,075
.....dollars.....	542,196	602,074	6,897,567	5,079,167
Lard compounds.....pounds.....	3,141,185	4,796,931	33,946,984	49,797,161
.....dollars.....	382,769	394,454	3,827,495	4,239,603
Crude oil.....gallons.....	15,424,261	14,997,987	127,720,170	118,014,941
.....dollars.....	521,445	397,144	5,504,979	3,165,080
Illuminating oil.....gallons.....	89,189,368	68,381,361	637,830,762	643,964,310
.....dollars.....	5,747,030	4,092,771	42,865,740	38,474,940
Lubricating oil.....gallons.....	23,690,556	18,493,447	204,513,350	182,776,205
.....dollars.....	3,924,143	2,545,995	33,063,712	23,992,843
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons.....	57,857,477	20,627,419	174,816,625	107,056,259
.....dollars.....	7,917,810	2,639,759	52,981,249	23,746,221
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....gallons.....	97,920,303	92,238,657	698,696,263	581,808,926
.....dollars.....	2,723,738	2,061,429	19,323,652	15,760,635

MARITIME JURISDICTION OF VENICE.

The Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, has received a notice that the Italian Government has issued a decree extending the jurisdiction of the maritime and public works departments of the government of Venice as far as Monfalcone, on the Adriatic coast, including the rivers Isonzo, Adige, Brenta, Piave, the lagoon of Grado, and tributary waters.

PUMPS IN THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 12.]

The statistics of 1913, the last year of normal trade, show that the ordinary yearly imports of all classes of pumps into Chile have a total value of about \$150,000, United States currency. Of that amount the United States in 1913 supplied \$36,000 worth. The principal ports of entry were Valparaiso, Iquique, Antofagasta, Talcahuano, Taltal, Coronel, and Valdivia.

The large import, export, and distributing houses have their principal offices in Valparaiso and branches or well-established connections in practically all of the ports mentioned. They are able, therefore, to divide their stock in accordance with the demands of the local markets that are supplied through the various ports, or to deliver merchandise to the neighboring ports along the coast.

Method Employed by American Manufacturers.

A course which is now being pursued by a number of American manufacturers might be of use to others seeking trade here. In substance the method of procedure is as follows: The foreign manufacturer makes a contract with one of the large importing and exporting houses which has ample capital and warehouse facilities in the principal ports of Chile. The contract may be for one, two, or three years. Under its terms the importing house accepts certain goods on consignment. These are warehoused, and samples are exhibited free of charge. The exporter furnishes a salesman. The importing or distributing house remits for stock sold within the month, less 5 to 6 per cent commission. The goods sold are billed by the distributing house to the purchaser, who receives such credit as may be warranted by facts within the knowledge of the distributing house. The responsibility for making collections on accepted orders lies with the distributing house.

[A list of general importers and exporters in Chile may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81214.]

CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 18.]

The Provincial Minister of Lands and Mines, in a survey recently begun of the various lands in New Brunswick, has had the services of the agriculturist of the Dominion Commission of Conservation to assist in land classification methods. This officer, in an interview published in the Canadian Forestry Journal, made detailed references to the work. He said:

Poor results were found in a district where settlers work at lumbering in winter and till the land only for a summer crop of necessary garden varieties. In many cases settlers had given so little attention to agriculture that kinds of crops best suited to the soil were not being grown. Numbers of acres are so ill-adapted to fertile crop raising that they should never have been opened to settlers at all, but left for regrowth of timber. Again were found fertile valleys where the areas, however, were so restricted and roads of approach so poor that settlers do not find them profitable for farming. In one locality the duff or leaf mold had been nearly all burned off and the sand showed through over the whole area. This leaf mold, if left on the land surface, assists in holding moisture during dry seasons, and when breaking of the ground is begun the mixture of the mold with the subsoil increases productivity of the land.

LUMBERING PROSPECTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 17.]

Lumbermen on the "North Shore," the portion of the Province of New Brunswick that lies along the Strait of Northumberland and the rivers tributary thereto, are reported to be making preparations for a bigger cut on the Miramichi waters this winter than last. The increase is expected to be substantial, and already crews are going into the woods to start operations.

The cut on the Miramichi, the river that near its mouth supports the towns of Newcastle and Chatham, amounted last year to 68,200,000 superficial feet; the estimate for this season's cut is over 90,000,000 superficial feet. One concern alone anticipates cutting 12,000,000 superficial feet for the mill at Nelson, near Newcastle, and will probably provide the Victoria mill with a like amount.

There has apparently arisen no marked difficulty in finding labor for lumbering operations in this part of the Province. Farther west, however, along the St. John River, labor is said to be scarce, and it is believed that French Canadians from Quebec Province, with perhaps some foreign labor, will have to be brought into New Brunswick to enable the lumbermen to get their stock down to the mills with ordinary dispatch and in requisite quantities.

The lumber market at present is firm and good prices prevail.

FISH CANNERIES PROPOSED FOR HAWAII.

[A. P. Taylor, commercial agent, Honolulu.]

The popularity of game fishing in Hawaiian waters, particularly for the yellow and blue fin tuna, the dolphin, and the aku (or bonita), has led to many inquiries from fish canneries on the mainland concerning prospects for fish canning in the islands.

Two Pacific coast firms, one of Seattle and the other of San Francisco, have made direct inquiries for statistics regarding the run of tuna and the quantity that may be caught here. If they are to be obtained in sufficient quantities, it is the intention of both firms to send representatives to Honolulu for inquiries, with a view to starting canneries. These firms asked whether there were continuous runs of tuna, or intervals or seasons in which they are plentiful. Inquiries were also made concerning the labor supply.

Japanese Control Commercial Fisheries.

The commercial fishing in the islands is almost entirely in the hands of Japanese, who a few years ago formed small companies to build sail-propelled sampans. These small groups brought their fish to the Honolulu market, where the catch was sold at auction on the wharf to dealers. Practically all the fisheries product in Honolulu is distributed through a market where all stalls are consolidated under practically two open-air sections, roofed over and conducted along sanitary lines with an inspector of fish appointed by the mayor of Honolulu in charge.

The sail-propelled sampans have been displaced by sampans fitted with gasoline engines which have a driving power capable of developing 12 to 14 knots an hour with a steaming radius of 1,000 miles, thus permitting them to go to fishing grounds several days distant from the islands. Each craft is equipped with ice compartments

where the fish, as caught, are placed, so that some of the boats are out from four to six days and even more. Some go as far as Bird and Laysan Islands. Smaller sampans make more frequent visits to the grounds where the larger ones are fishing, take off their supplies, and return with them direct to Honolulu. In the last three or four years large corporations have been formed grouping sampans by the scores. One company now controls 105 Japanese sampans. Another company has 40.

Furnishing Supplies for Fishing Fleet.

Contracts are made for deliveries of ice daily at the wharf, and gasoline supplies are taken aboard from barges in mid-harbor, to obviate possible explosions which might damage the wharves.

The tuna, or ahi, is always on the market, but brings too high a price at retail to permit of cannery use, selling at 5 to 10 cents per pound, and retailing at 10 to 20 cents from the stalls.

The aku, or bonita, is most plentiful. It sells at 1 to 3 or 4 cents a pound, much of the time bringing only $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 cents. The little akuli, or sardine fish, runs in larger lots at times. While the fishing corporations state that plans could be made for larger catches, the result would be problematical.

With the establishment of garrisons of United States troops in and near Honolulu the demand for fish has greatly increased. Whereas 10 and 15 years ago fish was extremely reasonable in price, present market conditions make it less plentiful on the tables of the people. Among the principal users of fish are the Japanese and Hawaiians.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 403, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 403, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22- Nov. 1.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany ..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany ..	do	Do.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	C/o Mr. C. B. Hauptman, Fife Building, San Francisco, Cal., until Oct. 30.

TRADE AND PRICES IN CHINESE MATTING STRAW.

[Vice Consul Paul R. Josselyn, Canton, Aug. 21.]

The fiber known locally as "fresh-water reed," or matting straw, is grown extensively in the districts of Tung Koon and Lintan, Province of Kwangtung, China. These two districts are situated some little distance from Canton. It is planted in January and transplanted in March, and the harvest season is during July and August. The best time in which to buy is September and October. It is sold by the picul of 133½ pounds.

The price of straw of ordinary quality varies from \$2.50 to \$2.70 Mexican currency per picul, equal at the exchange of 50 cents to \$1.25 to \$1.35 gold. The price of the selected article is \$5.50 Mexican currency, equal to \$2.75 gold per picul. These prices depend upon the market demand, the abundance of the crop, quality of the straw, etc. In addition to this first cost must be added the packing, export duty (equal approximately to 5 per cent ad valorem), river freight, and transshipment charges from Canton to Hongkong, which would be approximately \$1.80 Hongkong currency, or \$0.90 gold per ton measurement of 40 cubic feet. I do not know that any of this matting straw has ever been shipped from Canton to the United States, and the steamship companies do not publish any freight tariff for same. However, it would probably come under the tariff of general cargo, which is at present \$15 gold per ton of 40 cubic feet, from Hongkong to San Francisco. The present trans-Pacific ocean freight on matting is \$10 gold per ton of 40 cubic feet. Some of this straw has been shipped to Japan in the past, where it is woven into matting. Exporters say that it would not be possible to secure a consignment of straw of uniform quality with the sample forwarded by an American firm, but it would probably be necessary to take the straw, some of which would be of inferior quality.

It is suggested that those desiring to purchase this straw should correspond with the import and export commission houses of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., Messrs. Deacon Co., or Messrs. Spalinger, Dowler & Co. These concerns would buy from the Chinese dealer and export to the purchaser, charging a commission. It would not be possible to deal with the Chinese dealers direct, as these firms are unable to correspond in English, and for other reasons do not care to enter into direct relations with a foreign importer. They prefer to deal through one of the commission houses mentioned above.

TEN MILES OF SHIPS USED THE PANAMA CANAL IN JULY.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Oct. 14.]

In the Panama Canal Record for October 11 an interesting computation is published to show that the aggregate length of the 149 ships passing through the canal in July last was 53,905 feet, or approximately 10.2 miles. The average length of the vessels was 260.92 feet and the average draft was 20.9 feet. The vessel having the largest draft was the *Ohioan*, drawing 29.4 feet, and the vessel having the smallest draft was the Panama Railroad barge *No. 71*, which draws only 2 feet. The vessels having the greatest lengths were the *Siberia* and the *Korea*, each 552 feet long, and the vessel having the least length was the *Sir Francis*, 32 feet.

RAILWAY PENSION LAW IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 19.]

Law No. 9653, passed by the Argentine Congress in 1915, provides for the collection of a pension fund for railway employees and workmen with fixed salaries. The law requires that railway employees and workmen with fixed salaries shall contribute 3 per cent of their salaries, and one twenty-fourth part, monthly during two years, of the half of the first month's salary toward the formation of the fund. The companies have deducted these percentages from the salaries since last October, and have paid the aggregate amount monthly, less a small sum for commission and expenses, to the national pensions fund, as the law requires shall be done, until the administration of the railway fund has been organized by another law that must be enacted to that effect.

Requires Companies to Contribute.

Law No. 9653 also requires the companies to contribute on their own account to the fund such a monthly sum as may be agreed on between them and the National Executive Power. The railway companies contend, however, that they are exempted by the so-called "Mitre Law" from making such contributions.

An official technical committee was appointed by the President of the Republic to make recommendations for the supplementary law of organization, but the members have been delayed in the performance of that task until recently from a lack of data regarding the numbers, ages, years of service, and salaries of railway employees and workmen with fixed salaries. They were also delayed by negligence of the employees in filling out blank forms.

[An extract from the Review of the River Plate, containing translations of the technical committee's report, and of the modified pension law projected by the committee, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81247.]

EMBARGO IN FRENCH COLONIES.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Paris, Oct. 24.]

A decree of October 18 prohibits the export, transit, etc., from the French colonies and protectorates, other than Tunis and Morocco, of the following goods: Chromic acid; fatty chromates and bichromates; sulphurous anhydrid; arrack; arsenic ore; asphalt; bitumen; pitch; whale and cachalot spermaceti; borax; boracic acid; other boron compounds; calcareous bitumen; cinnamon; halogen carbon compounds; all metallic and metalloidal chlorides; blacking; glue of all kinds and materials therefor, including casein and egg or serum albumen; dried blood, dextrin, soluble starches; gelatin and glues made from hides, from hide and leather waste and animal refuse; formic ether; feldspar; diamond drawplates of all diameters; cloves; electric material suitable for military use, and detached parts thereof; manufactures of lead; sodium; varnish. The decree is subject to exceptions, which may be granted by the Minister of the Colonies.

[The decree prohibiting the exportation of the above-named articles from France was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 21.]

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended October 21:

Variable Self and Mutual Inductor (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 290).—Describes a type of instrument designed to vary the self-inductance of a circuit or the mutual inductance between two circuits while keeping the resistance constant. Price, 10 cents.

System of Remote Control for an Electric Testing Laboratory (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 291).—Describes apparatus in use in Laboratory of the Bureau of Standards for testing electrical measuring instruments, instrument transformers, and similar testing and investigatorial work. Price, 10 cents.

International System of Electric and Magnetic Units (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 292).—A short historical account of the standards upon which the international and other well known systems of units are based. Price, 10 cents.

Information Concerning Parasitic Worms in Fish (Fisheries Economic Circular 21).—Statements by special investigators which should dispel any uneasiness on public health grounds on account of the presence of certain parasites in fish. Price, 5 cents.

Markets for Agricultural Implements and Machinery in Argentina (Special Agents' Series 125).—Covers the trade methods and market requirements of Argentina for all kinds of farm machinery, with valuable suggestions to manufacturers in further extending their sales. Price, 10 cents.

SPAIN'S UNMINED IRON ORE.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 14.]

Careful estimates place the quantity of unmined iron ore in Spain at 700,000,000 tons, capable of yielding about 50 per cent of metal. This vast mineral wealth is distributed throughout the various provinces, chief among which are Leon with 150,000,000 tons; Teruel, 135,000,000 tons; Vizcaya, 70,000,000 tons; Lugo, 65,000,000 tons; Oviedo, 55,000,000 tons; Aragon, 40,000,000 tons; Seville, 35,000,000 tons; Santander, Malaga, and Almeria each possessing 25,000,000 tons.

About 9,000,000 tons of Spanish iron ore have been mined annually during the past decade, although some sharp fluctuations are noticeable of late. At present nearly half the iron mined is from the province of Vizcaya, where, as a consequence of constant exploitation the quantity has been gradually reduced. At the same time, the means of mining and transportation of mineral products have been perfected in that province.

The metallurgical interests of Spain demand intensive development of the iron mines, where a part of the national wealth is latent. Besides the iron resources of the Peninsula, Spain owns iron mines in Morocco with almost inexhaustible reserves.

AMERICAN COTTON GINNED.

Census cotton report shows 7,291,733 bales, counting round as half bales, ginned from the growth of 1916 to October 18, compared with 5,708,730 bales for 1915 and 7,619,747 bales for 1914. Round bales included this year are 133,659 bales, compared with 54,783 bales for 1915 and 15,235 bales for 1914. Sea-island included 64,931 bales for 1916, 40,438 bales for 1915, and 30,078 bales for 1914.

FRENCH PREPARATION OF CANDIED CHESTNUTS.

[Vice Consul Davis B. Levis, St. Etienne, Sept. 19.]

The approaching harvest of the marron or large chestnut of southern France promises to be good, with a fine quality of output. This important article of French food is largely augmented by imports from Italy and other countries in normal times, and while not as extensively used here as in places where it is ground and used as flour, it has an accepted place in the dietary of the country, and is prepared for the table in many ways.

An industry of large proportions at Privas (Department of the Ardèche), in this consular district, where the climatic conditions and soil produce the highest quality of nuts, is that of the manufacture of marrons glacés (candied chestnuts) for various markets. A considerable quantity is exported to high-class confectioners in the United States.

Process Employed in Cooking.

In the preparation of this French delicacy, an authority on the subject states, the hard shell is first removed, leaving the inner skin on the nut. It is then cooked in water of nearly 100° C. (212° F.), care being taken not to allow it to boil, which would break the nut. The inner skin having peeled off, the chestnuts are plunged into a sirup of sugar and vanilla of 30° C. (86° F.) where they are left as long as is necessary to absorb all the sirup that is possible. A second cooking in sirup of sugar of 24° C. (77° F.) is intended to glaze the marron. They are then left to cool, which "sets" the sugar on the surface.

The entire process is comparatively simple, but the result depends much on the experience and handicraft of the confectioner.

[A long article on the preparation of French glacé fruits and nuts was published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Feb. 24, 1909.]

TICKET-SELLING MACHINES NOT IN DEMAND IN RUSSIA.

[Consul John A. Ray, Odessa, Sept. 23.]

There appears to be no possibility of introducing automatic ticket-selling machines into moving-picture theaters in Russia. The difficulty lies in the regulations for collecting the internal-revenue tax on theater tickets. The manager of a theater obtains his tickets from the local authorities in the form of stub books. Through each book a cord is passed and the ends sealed. A revenue stamp of the proper denomination is pasted over each ticket and stub by the ticket seller. The tickets are torn out as sold and half of the stamp remains on the stub. The stub books are checked over by the authorities and a heavy fine is imposed on a theater manager who sells a ticket without a stamp. In regular theaters the manager receives a number of tickets equal to the number of seats in the house and the stub books with the unused tickets are returned to the authorities at the close of the performance. In the case of motion-picture houses, application is made for the number of tickets that the manager estimates will be needed. Judging from a cut of an American machine seen in this office, it is not adapted to tickets bound in book form.

GOLD PRODUCTION IN RHODESIA.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, Sept. 6.]

According to the annual report of the secretary for mines, southern Rhodesia, for the year 1915, the number of producers of gold from reef claims was 489; there were also 19 producers of alluvial gold, mainly from the Angwa River. Three mines in the country produced 27.6 per cent of the total output. They were the Shamva, 103,979 ounces; the Globe and Phoenix, 93,672 ounces; and the Cam and Motor, 55,746 ounces. The output was mainly dependent upon the larger producers, but the small workers are of great value to the country in developing and proving the value of claims on an inexpensive basis, very often with excellent results to themselves, and thus paving the way for capital in cases where claims are shown to contain larger possibilities than were at first anticipated.

Value of Output—Claims, Etc.

The value of the 1915 output was \$18,605,446 as against \$17,432,240 in 1914, an increase of \$1,173,206. Over the total output the average value per ton crushed works out at \$6.55.

The Hartley district comes second in regard to the number of gold reef claims, the first three being Bulawayo, 12,273; Hartley, 10,953; Gwelo, 7,877.

The net collection of administrative revenue was \$125,005 as against \$142,320 for the previous year.

The monthly average of Europeans employed in mining operations was 1,819; that of natives, 37,928. The total number of deaths among Europeans and natives on the gold and other mines was 1,001. The total number of deaths by accidents for the year was 159, an increase of 24 on the previous year's figures.

HIGH-GRADE JEWELRY IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley, Asuncion, June 27.]

There is a very limited demand in the Asuncion district for high-grade jewelry. Those who can afford to purchase this class of jewelry usually buy from jewelry shops in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, or European cities. There is a smaller demand than usual for the higher grades at present, on account of financial stringency occasioned by the war, which has caused a diminution in purchases of all articles other than necessities.

In the various jewelry shops of Asuncion, the stocks of high-grade jewelry consist principally of the following articles, on which the selling prices are given.

Women's rings in 18-carat gold and in platinum, set with diamonds, from \$200 to \$1,000.

Women's rings in 18-carat gold and in platinum, set with diamonds and sapphires, with diamonds and rubies, with diamonds and pearls, with diamonds and emeralds, with pearls alone, from \$300 to \$1,000.

Men's rings, 18-carat gold or platinum, set with solitaire diamond, emerald, ruby or sapphire, from \$100 to \$800.

Women's earrings, 18-carat gold or platinum, set with small and large diamonds, with small diamonds and sapphires, rubies, emeralds and pearls, with pearls alone, from \$80 to \$500.

Pendants in 18-carat gold or platinum, set with stones mentioned, from \$80 to \$300.

Collars of pearls, from \$200 to \$1,000.

Bracelets of 18-carat gold, solid, from \$50 to \$150.

Bracelets of 18-carat gold, set with stones mentioned, from \$100 to \$300.

Crosses of 18-carat gold and of platinum, set with small stones, from \$80 to \$200.

Necklaces of platinum, from \$20 to \$50.

Scarf pins, 18-carat gold or platinum set with stones, from \$80 to \$300.

Cuff links, 18-carat gold or platinum, set with stones, from \$80 to \$300.

Medals (religious) of gold and platinum, set with stones, from \$50 to \$200.

Men's watch chains, in 18-carat gold at \$1 per gram; in gold and platinum, from \$80 to \$200 per chain.

Sets for women consisting of earrings, ring, and brooch of 18-carat gold and platinum, set with stones, from \$300 to \$1,000.

Carry Small Stocks of High-Priced Goods.

None of the jewelry dealers carry more than a small selection of articles at the prices mentioned. There is a certain demand for this class of goods for wedding, engagement, and confirmation gifts, etc.

There are no wholesale jewelry establishments in this district. The retail jewelry dealers import their stocks direct from foreign markets. Before the European war, the jewelry dealers here received long credit terms from European jewelry jobbers and manufacturers. Terms of 3 to 6 and sometimes 9 months after arrival of goods were allowed. These credit terms have now been cut off, terms of cash against documents Asuncion being the rule at present.

A list of dealers in Asuncion who carry high-grade jewelry has been prepared, with the names arranged in the order of the probable degree of interest in high-grade jewelry from the United States. Correspondence and catalogues for this district should be in the Spanish language.

[The list of dealers mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 79028. A review of the jewelry market in Paraguay was published in Special Consular Reports No. 70, "South American Market for Jewelry and Silverware," which may be obtained at 5 cents per copy from the offices of the Bureau or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.]

PRICE OF LAND IN URUGUAY.

[Vice Consul John C. Terry, Montevideo, Sept. 18.]

Many inquiries have come to the consulate requesting information regarding lands in Uruguay. The present price of good land, suitable for farming or cattle raising, ranges from \$40 to \$100 per hectare (2.47 acres), according to location. Land can be leased by the year for \$4 to \$8 per hectare.

There is very little land in the Republic under cultivation, the largest portion being used for cattle and sheep raising. This industry is being developed rapidly, in view of the establishment of several large meat-packing plants in the Republic.

Every year numerous cattle shows are held for the encouragement of the live-stock industry, and the Government contributes to them subsidies of money for premiums.

The number of pure-blooded animals in the country at present is considerable, and the practice of crossing with imported animals from the best stud farms in England and the United States is quite general.

EFFORT TO MAKE COLON A FREE PORT.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Oct. 16.]

The Board of Commerce of Colon, which has become an active body of 100 members, has been discussing for some time the best methods to promote the commercial interests of the city. Concerning the two most important matters there was at first a division of sentiment as to whether it would be better to undertake to establish bonded warehouses or to make Colon a free port; but the sentiment in favor of the latter grew rapidly, and at a meeting of the board on October 13 it was unanimously voted to appeal to the Panama National Assembly to make this city a free port. It is the opinion of the board of commerce that making Colon a free port would result in bringing a large wholesale business to the city from South America, particularly from the west coast; but the fact is recognized that, while Colon itself would be greatly benefited, the deficiency in the public revenues resulting from the abolition of the customs duties would have to be met from other sources.

LOWER BREAD PRICES IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 9.]

Coincidentally with the highest prices for flour that have been known for many years, the price of bread in this district has been reduced. This remarkable result is due to competition among Caracas bakers. The former price was 1.50 bolivars per kilo, or 13.6 cents United States currency per pound, and the present price is 1.25 bolivars per kilo, or 11 cents per pound. This price does not include delivery and is only for 1-kilo (2.2 pounds) loaves at the bakery. The public seems willing to accept these conditions, and if present prices hold, greater consumption of bread and increased imports of American flour will result, despite its unusual cost.

The duty on wheat flour amounts to 3.43 cents per pound, and about \$1,000,000 worth is imported annually.

SOUTH AFRICAN OSTRICH FEATHER MARKET.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 12.]

The ostrich feather market is held for one day or part of one day each week, but transactions are small and the demand indifferent. Naturally the result of this continued slump in the feather market is being severely felt by farmers who are depending chiefly upon this industry. Very few birds are being bred, and prospects are not encouraging. Sales for the last two weeks were as follows: For the week ended September 9, 3,112 pounds were sold for \$12,154, and for the week ended September 16, 4,725 pounds brought \$18,598. As part of the feathers recorded as sold in this statement were withdrawn, the actual sales were small.

The first Spanish vessel to make use of the Panama Canal, states the Panama Canal Record, was the *Carlos* of Bilbao, which entered from Cristobal on September 21 in passage from Norfolk to Mejillones with 3,391 tons of coal. A second Spanish ship, the *Bartolo*, went through on the same routing on September 30.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3732.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 2, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone, Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel, drawbar pockets, steel or iron pipe, boiler tubes, steel cable, chain, screws, nuts, cotters, staples, tacks, toe calks, zinc, hammers, wrenches, chisels, hatchets, axes, adzes, mattocks, saws, scythe blades, files, bits, drills, reamers, taps, stocks and dies, drill sockets, pipe cutters, bolt cutters, planes, pliers, vises, jacks, squares, screw clamps, hose clamps, hose nozzles, grommets, bolts, hinges, chain blocks, snatch blocks, tackle blocks, coke forks, hoes, trowels, brooms, floor brushes, tool handles, wagon rims, ladders, buckets, torches, gongs, oilers, tallow pots, lanterns, lamp chimneys, scythe stones, cylinder-boring bars, tool grinders, battery-charging panel, generator pocket, shelf brackets, elbow catches, draw pulls, funnels, refrigerator, scales, table casters, spoons, vinegar bottles, welding spectacles, asbestos gloves, rubber hose, railroad flags, rules, steel tapes, twine, crayons, pencils, pins, daters, rubber bands, blank books, paper, pressboard, envelopes, creosote oil, pine-tar oil, alcohol, metallic zinc, white zinc, lead oxide of mercury, Indian red, and gum shellac. (Circular No. 1091.)

Electric-clock system, No. 3733.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for an automatic electric-clock system in the Interior Department office building at Washington, D. C. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Cable, No. 3734.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until November 6, 1916, for furnishing aviator cable and wire. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3735.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, of The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 10, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel spring plates, steel and iron castings, cable, wire, sheet copper, sheet brass, bronze, brass tubing, sheet zinc, sheet lead, lead pipe, tin pipe, stovepipe, nails, rivets, cable clips, files, turnbuckles, chaplet stems, drill chucks, dies, bits, saws, brooms, brushes, grease cups, oil cups, engine lubricators, steam gauges, steam whistles, gauge lamps, forges, calking irons, ladders, oar locks, belt lacings, hoof pads, gloves, glass, hose, packing, gaskets, rubber valves, belting, canvas, bunting, cheesecloth, oilcloth, ticking mattress tufts, emery cloth, chalk lines, toweling, vacuum cleaners, water coolers, ice-cream tubs, kitchen utensils, spoons, flexible conduit, trolley poles and equipment, rules, chamolais skins, file boxes, paper fasteners, pins, erasers, stamp pads, rubber bands, paper, pipe covering, boiler lagging, furnace cement, calcium carbide, lye, borax, chalk, soap, glue, floor wax, alcohol, ammonia, lard oil, varnish, palut, white zinc, and lumber. (Circular No. 1094.)

Post-office construction No. 3736.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 28, 1916, for remodeling the post office at Beaver Falls, Pa. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Light vessel repairs, No. 3737.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Milwaukee, Wis., until November 15, 1916, for docking and repairs to Light Vessel No. 56. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases.

Curtain materials, etc., No. 22794.—An American consular officer in France transmits the name of a general commission merchant in his district who is in the market for bead and bamboo curtain materials, etc. Bamboo sticks should be smooth, natural, or dyed in several different colors; thickness from 4 to 10 millimeters (0.157 to 0.39 of an inch), cut to lengths of 12, 14, 16, and 20 centimeters (4.71, 5.49, 6.27, and 7.87 inches), evenly cut at both ends. Quotations are also desired on small black shoe-type buttons, cardboard tubes (frequently replacing bamboo tubes) used in the manufacture of these curtains, toilet clippers, and metal baskets for acid containers. Samples of the bamboo sticks, cardboard tubes, beads, and buttons may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 80599.) Correspondence in English.

Automobiles, etc., No. 22795.—An American consular officer in Venezuela reports that the proprietor of an automobile garage in his district desires to obtain the agency for a low-priced automobile and for greases, tires, and other supplies. Correspondence in English.

Typewriter supplies, etc., No. 22796.—A manufacturers' agent in Russia writes the Bureau that he is desirous of entering into commercial relations with American manufacturers of fly paper, safety razors, typewriter supplies, shaving soap, and underwear, etc., for women and children.

Cream separators, No. 22797.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in South Africa reports that a firm in that territory is interested in receiving catalogues and quotations on cream separators from 15 to 50 gallons.

Farm machinery, etc., No. 22798.—A commercial agent of the Bureau in the United States transmits the name of an American who is employed as adviser to farmers in cotton growing in Brazil, and who desires to receive quotations on farm implements of all kinds, gin outfits, and cottonseed-oil machinery of about 10 tons capacity. He is also interested in tools and machinery of all kinds.

Machinery, No. 22799.—The Bureau is in receipt of an inquiry from a man in India who wishes to receive illustrated catalogues and quotations from American manufacturers of can-making machinery and machinery used in the pineapple industry.

Plumbing supplies, No. 22800.—An established plumber in Spain informs an American consular officer of his desire to import from the United States lead siphon tubing with interior diameters of 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 millimeters. An illustration showing tubing desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 79990.) Correspondence in Spanish.

Sugar, Lard, etc., No. 22801.—An American consular officer in Switzerland writes that a manufacturers' agent in his district desires to represent American sugar refineries and exporters of lard and salt pork, etc. Reference.

Machinery, No. 22802.—The Bureau is informed that a firm in the United Kingdom wishes to get into communication with American manufacturers of machines for converting shavings and chips into paper pulp.

Hosiery, No. 22803.—An American consular officer in Canada reports that a manufacturers' agent in his district desires to represent American manufacturers of cotton, woolen, and silk hosiery for women and children. References.

Old newspapers, No. 22804.—An American consular officer in the Far East reports an inquiry in his district for the names of exporters in the United States of old newspapers.

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GREEK MEASURES TO CONTROL FOOD SUPPLIES.

The Department of State is in receipt of information from the American Minister at Athens, Greece, that the Government proposes to take the requisite steps to supply the country with flour, sugar, and wheat, which will include contracting for the transportation of these commodities at low rates. It is understood that shipments made to Greece through any other channel will be subject to requisition at the rates fixed by the Government without reference to the current commercial prices.

BURMESE MYRABOLANS AS A TANNING MATERIAL.

[Indian (Government) Trade Journal, Sept. 15.]

A report on the Burmese myrabolans or "pangia" fruits as a tanning material, prepared by the chemical adviser to the Forest Research Institute, states that the Burmese myrabolans are different from the Indian Chebulic myrabolans in points of tannin and nontannin contents and color. In the air-dried Burmese material the tannin varies from 16 to 32 per cent; the general average may thus be taken to be 20-25 per cent, which is about half the tannin content of the Indian myrabolans. The nontannin ranges from 25 to 34 per cent, and the general average may be taken to be 27-30 per cent, which is three times that of the Indian myrabolans. The color is high. The maximum red and yellow recorded for the Indian myrabolans is 2.5 red and 7.4 yellow, while the Burmese myrabolans in general have 4.9 red and 18.35 yellow. The excess of nontannin is a disadvantage, and all tanning materials having nontannins in excess must be classed as somewhat inferior, though in practice they give fairly good results.

To form some opinion as to the actual tanning properties of the Burmese myrabolans experiments were undertaken, which disclosed that leather made with this material alone is spongy and tough like the leather produced by Indian myrabolans, that the Burmese fruits can be used in the preparation of butts for making army boots and shoes and also for making black uppers of inferior quality, and that they will be useful in conjunction with babul bark for making sole leather.

HARDWARE SALES IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Considerable capital furnished by citizens of the United States is being invested in Chile's mining enterprises, and that tends to increase the use of products from this country. In Bolivia American goods have been selling well since the war started, and it is thought that much of the newly gained business can be retained. Our hardware has a reputation for high quality among the Bolivians, and all that is required to gain markets for it is a willingness to grant terms similar to those to which the native firms are accustomed.

Conditions in these two South American countries are described, and facts relating to their hardware markets are given in the first of a series of publications from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, based on the recent world-wide investigation of hardware markets by the American commercial attachés. The reports have been prepared under the direction of the attachés, but the technical information was collected by specially engaged experts in each country. In addition to the written reports thousands of dollars' worth of samples were forwarded to the United States and have already been exhibited in the principal American hardware centers. They now form a part of the Bureau's permanent exhibit in New York City. This investigation is the first of a number of far-reaching, concerted studies to be undertaken by the attaché service to assist American manufacturers in capturing foreign markets.

Imports of Chile and Bolivia.

The report on Chile and Bolivia was prepared under the direction of Commercial Attaché Verne L. Havens, who has his headquarters at Santiago, Chile. During the normal year 1913-14 Chile imported a total of \$3,750,000 worth of hardware. Germany led all competitors as a source of supply with a total of \$1,487,000 worth. England was second with \$999,000 worth, and the United States was third with \$654,812 worth. It is an interesting fact that Belgium sold \$300,000 worth of hardware to Chile in 1914, a decided gain over its previous showing. In 1913 Bolivia imported hardware valued at \$3,500,000, and at that time German manufacturers easily controlled the market.

The report not only discusses general conditions in the two countries, but takes up in detail each article of hardware, describes the design most in favor, and endeavors to account for its popularity. The work is entitled "Markets for American Hardware in Chile and Bolivia," Miscellaneous Series No. 41. In all there are 190 pages, including 12 illustrations of hardware articles in common use in the countries dealt with. Copies may be had at 25 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

COOPERATIVE OFFICE OF BUREAU AT DAYTON.

A cooperative office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been established with the foreign-trade bureau of the Greater Dayton Association, at Dayton, Ohio. Mr. J. M. Bechtold, formerly commercial agent of the Bureau, is in charge of this new cooperative branch.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.

CANADA.

[Consul W. E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Oct. 19.]

New Stamp Mill at Nelson.

The establishment of a customs stamp mill at Nelson, in the Fernie consular district, now seems assured. It is the intention to build a gold stamp mill with cyanide equipment. This would be advantageous, as it would provide a means of treating ore taken out during development work which does not run high enough to justify shipment to a smelter.

CHILE.

[Ambassador Joseph M. Shea, Santiago, Sept. 19.]

Antofagasta Port-Works Law.

The law which provides for the construction of port works at Antofagasta was promulgated in the *Diario Oficial* of September 8. [Brief mention of the passing of this law was made in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for October 16, 1916.] The cost of the works is limited to £1,700,000 sterling (\$8,273,000), and by the act the President of the Republic is authorized to procure the funds in one of several ways—but it is generally believed it will be necessary to contract a loan for the entire amount. The rate of interest to be paid on the loan is fixed at 6 per cent and the amortization at not to exceed 2 per cent.

The law [a translation of which will be loaned to those interested by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, upon referring to file No. 81325] also stipulates that bids for the works shall be asked for in Chile, Europe, and the United States within three years.

FRANCE.

In its issue of October 5 the British Board of Trade Journal states that proposed port improvements at Havre will involve an expenditure of 200,000,000 francs (roughly, \$40,000,000), to be borne partly by the State and partly by the Havre Chamber of Commerce. The work as planned includes the dredging of the tidal basin and its approaches; the construction of a new basin, called the North Basin, along the Tancarville Canal, affording accommodation for vessels drawing 9.15 meters (about 30 feet); the construction of a South Basin, affording accommodation for vessels of a still deeper draft, with 16,000 meters (52,500 feet, or nearly 10 miles) of quay opening, without the intervention of a lock, into the Tancarville Canal; and the installation of refitting and graving plants in these new docks.

JAPAN.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 5.]

New Railways and Harbor Works in Hokkaido.

At the end of 1915 the extent of railways in the Hokkaido was 878 miles of single track and 66 miles of double track. The chief work done during the year was the opening to traffic of 7½ miles of new single track north of Shimo-Ikutabara, on the line to Yubetsu, and the double-tracking of 9½ miles on the Yubari branch line. It is intended to complete another 15 miles of single track on the line to Wakkanai and the remaining 10 miles of the line to Yubetsu.

In addition, construction work will be carried out on a further 6 miles of the former of these two railways and on the first 30 miles of the track that will eventually link up Kusture with Nemuro.

Plans have been approved for a four years' program of harbor works at the port of Aomori. The plans are for two detached breakwaters, two moles, and a quay. The entire works are to cost about \$750,000, and are being undertaken by the prefectural government, aided by a subsidy from the Imperial Treasury. The absence of any protection against northerly winds has long been a source of great inconvenience at this port, as communication between ships and the shore is often dangerous and sometimes impossible in winter.

SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 22.]

Chinese College for Bangkok.

The Chinese community of Bangkok has subscribed \$61,790 for the construction of a college in a prominent location in the Chinese quarter of Bangkok. The contract has been awarded to a local Chinese builder and the work of construction will begin at once, the plans calling for an imposing and substantial building of brick and ferro-concrete to be ready for use in about 16 months. It is understood that further subscriptions will be forthcoming for the purchasing of an up-to-date equipment for this institution.

SPAIN.

Tramway for Freight Transfer.

The Gaceta de Madrid announces that tenders will be opened at the Direccion General de Obras Publicas, Ministerio de Fomento, Madrid, on November 13, for the construction and operation, for a period of 60 years, of a tramway for freight traffic from Miravalles, a station on the Castejon-Bilbao Railway, into the town. Construction work must be commenced within a period of three months and completed within eighteen months from the date of the granting of the concession. Although this contract will probably be awarded to a Spanish firm, nevertheless the prosecution of the work may involve the purchase of some material outside Spain.

DECREASING INTEREST RATES IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 9.]

On October 1, 1912, the discount rate of the Bank of Venezuela was reduced from 12 per cent to 9 per cent. On October 1, 1916, it was announced that in future the rate on 30, 60, or 90 day secured commercial paper would be at the rate of 8 per cent per annum.

That money is easy in Venezuela is evidenced by the prevailing rate of exchange. The actual par of the American dollar in Venezuelan currency is 5.18 bolivars; by local law the gold dollar is worth 5.20 bolivars, and at the present moment actual gold coin is worth a premium of one-half of 1 per cent, or 5.226 bolivars, for the dollar, but the banks' selling rate for sight drafts on New York is only 5.16.

The Royal Bank of Canada has just completed the furnishing of quarters for its new branch in Caracas and subbranches are about to be opened in La Guaira and Maracaibo.

VINTAGE OF 1916 IN ITALY.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Oct. 4.]

According to careful preliminary estimates from unofficial sources, Italy's grape crop and wine production in 1916 will be about one-third greater than in 1915 but considerably less than the average for the years 1909-1915. This is brought out by the table that follows, which gives the grape harvest (in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds) and the wine production (in American gallons) for each year since 1909 and also shows the proportion each season's yield bore to the average for the seven-year period 1909-1915.

Year.	Grape harvest.		Wine production.	
	Metric tons.	Index number.	Metric tons.	Index number.
1909.....	9,612,800	148.5	1,632,124,000	147.9
1910.....	4,673,600	72.2	773,835,000	70.2
1911.....	6,514,000	100.6	1,128,798,000	102.0
1912.....	6,683,800	103.2	1,165,590,000	105.7
1913.....	7,999,200	123.6	1,380,028,000	125.1
1914.....	6,799,600	106.0	1,137,143,000	103.0
1915.....	3,612,200	46.5	503,377,000	45.6
1909-1915 (average).....	6,470,700	100.0	1,102,700,000	100.0
1916 (estimate).....	4,000,000	61.8	672,573,000	60.9

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C. C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Chum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C. C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22-Nov. 1.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C. Do. C/o Mr. C. B. Hauptman, Fife Building, San Francisco, Cal., until Oct. 30.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	do	
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	

That part of central Alaska lying between the lower Koyukuk River and the Yukon was until recently but little known. In 1913 it was explored by H. M. Eakin, and his results are presented in a report entitled "The Yukon-Koyukuk Region," recently issued by the United States Geological Survey as Bulletin 631.

MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 12 leading eastern railroads during July and 7 months ended July, 1915 and 1916, follows:

JULY.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			70,248	87,317	70,248	87,317
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			8,970	8,594	8,970	8,594
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			207	657	207	657
Chesapeake & Ohio.....		144	1,319	1,430	1,319	1,574
Free.....	656,794	624,480	127,932	79,508	783,726	603,988
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			73	28	73	28
Pennsylvania.....	356,579	414,753	207,441	491,756	663,020	906,509
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....			278	1,108	278	1,108
Virginian.....	26		149	159	175	159
Western Maryland.....			22,933	26,055	22,933	26,055
Total.....	1,011,399	1,059,377	529,550	696,610	1,440,949	1,726,967
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,506,944	2,645,143	535,533	592,793	3,042,477	3,147,936
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	646,186	742,788	6,590	2,593	652,776	745,376
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	77,698	131,426	46		77,744	131,426
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,572,367	2,092,464	182,289	182,840	2,054,656	2,275,304
Erie.....	18,991	14,216	541,402	605,473	560,393	619,689
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	56,632	47,383	24,611	27,899	81,243	75,272
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	504,002	569,843			504,002	569,843
Norfolk & Western.....	2,301,795	2,063,410	331,183	545,036	2,632,978	2,608,446
Pennsylvania.....	8,336,213	8,577,954	311,933	496,758	3,698,146	4,064,712
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	232,016	243,541	520	652	232,536	244,193
Virginian.....	314,038	361,743	46,509	64,260	360,537	426,003
Western Maryland.....	264,699	314,986	457,517	453,671	742,216	768,557
Total.....	12,171,361	12,804,892	2,438,483	2,821,837	14,609,844	15,626,729
FOR COMPANY USE.						
Anthracite:						
Erie.....	19,452	17,578			19,452	17,578
Pennsylvania.....	12,061	6,997	11,643	11,096	23,704	18,693
Total.....	31,513	24,575	11,643	11,096	43,156	36,271
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	278,329	446,937	6,345	16,144	284,674	463,081
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	48,810	55,018			48,810	55,018
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	6,060	7,234			6,060	7,234
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	152,030	135,169			152,030	135,169
Erie.....	152,559	91,930	181,899	165,596	334,458	257,525
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	2,649	2,201			2,649	2,201
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	233,618	221,279			233,618	221,279
Norfolk & Western.....	203,624	186,682	17,943	44,317	221,567	232,000
Pennsylvania.....	516,799	564,297		77	516,799	564,297
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	6,173	9,804			6,173	9,804
Virginian.....	22,112	20,111	24	102	22,137	20,213
Western Maryland.....	44,313	48,810	263		44,576	48,810
Total.....	1,666,977	1,791,472	206,474	226,226	1,873,451	2,017,086

JULY—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	Short tons. 230,765	Short tons. 267,371	Short tons. 116,686	Short tons. 70,421	Short tons. 347,451	Short tons. 337,792
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	25,223	26,614	1,065	9,904	36,308	36,518
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	48,932	36,204	.....	.....	48,932	36,204
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	8,975	32,850	12,985	2,902	21,960	35,752
Erie.....	.....	.....	89,897	87,015	89,897	87,015
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	8,112	7,275	109	21	8,221	7,296
Norfolk & Western.....	72,933	148,846	1,063	3,534	73,996	152,380
Pennsylvania.....	801,272	879,184	290,072	277,395	1,091,344	1,156,559
Western Maryland.....	5,600	6,612	15,479	3,290	21,169	9,902
Total.....	1,211,902	1,404,936	527,366	454,482	1,739,268	1,859,418

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING JULY.

FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	.....	.....	676,842	858,784	676,842	858,784
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	.....	.....	97,330	101,805	97,330	101,805
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	.....	.....	3,595	4,005	3,595	4,005
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	945	557	6,792	7,435	7,737	7,992
Erie.....	4,218,487	4,651,425	898,999	893,690	5,112,386	5,545,115
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	.....	.....	249	480	249	430
Pennsylvania.....	8,267,431	3,421,900	2,800,605	3,344,650	6,068,036	6,766,550
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	.....	.....	7,056	7,319	7,056	7,319
Virginian.....	368	144	636	2,102	1,004	2,246
Western Maryland.....	.....	.....	186,645	196,599	186,645	196,599
Total.....	7,487,231	8,074,026	4,675,649	5,416,819	12,162,880	13,490,845
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	14,206,263	16,623,881	3,617,751	3,984,690	17,824,014	20,608,571
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	4,021,131	5,304,987	30,949	23,482	4,052,080	5,328,469
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	539,437	861,665	211	126	539,648	861,791
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	11,332,093	14,481,416	840,619	1,426,268	12,172,712	15,907,684
Erie.....	112,629	125,191	3,409,469	4,860,105	3,622,098	4,985,296
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	381,238	429,049	153,565	208,440	534,803	637,489
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	3,394,043	4,556,879	.....	.....	3,394,043	4,556,879
Norfolk & Western.....	12,256,317	14,716,741	1,625,213	3,180,043	13,881,530	17,896,784
Pennsylvania.....	21,668,123	24,697,904	2,197,377	3,585,945	23,865,500	28,283,849
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	1,252,424	1,743,350	3,987	4,710	1,256,411	1,748,060
Virginian.....	1,893,100	2,634,114	255,570	415,233	2,148,670	3,049,347
Western Maryland.....	1,899,376	2,107,690	2,834,606	2,583,413	4,721,882	4,691,103
Total.....	72,936,174	88,282,887	14,967,317	20,272,455	87,903,491	108,555,322
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
B. & O.....	.....	.....	142	36	142	36
Erie.....	166,561	109,722	703	145	167,264	109,867
Pennsylvania.....	76,767	80,550	114,617	110,816	191,384	191,366
Total.....	243,328	190,272	115,462	110,997	358,790	301,269
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,329,987	3,378,966	56,451	98,602	2,386,438	3,477,568
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	309,198	421,749	.....	.....	309,198	421,749
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	54,787	63,275	.....	.....	54,787	63,275
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,150,357	1,255,100	.....	.....	1,150,357	1,255,100
Erie.....	969,839	810,443	993,836	1,163,360	1,953,675	1,963,803
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	17,556	19,714	.....	.....	17,556	19,714
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	1,527,888	1,445,819	.....	.....	1,527,888	1,445,819
Norfolk & Western.....	1,387,179	1,563,025	139,576	298,858	1,526,755	1,861,883

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING JULY—Continued.

Classes and railroads	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
FOR COMPANY FUEL—contd.						
Bituminous—Continued.	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Pennsylvania	4,061,039	4,691,275	106	980	4,061,204	4,692,255
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern	49,676	81,535	.....	.....	49,676	81,535
Virginian	137,133	147,161	160	27,875	137,303	174,936
Western Maryland	314,772	332,418	1,235	86,143	316,007	333,561
Total	12,319,411	14,210,297	1,191,432	1,615,037	13,510,843	15,825,334
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio	1,415,899	2,634,399	578,475	556,242	1,994,374	2,590,632
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh	235,289	235,860	68,861	93,396	305,150	329,246
Buffalo & Susquehanna	342,640	270,088	.....	.....	342,640	270,088
Chesapeake & Ohio	60,856	251,197	71,146	60,611	132,004	311,718
Erie	.....	.....	587,470	659,267	587,470	659,267
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain	33,653	44,106	670	4,105	34,223	48,211
Norfolk & Western	511,562	1,164,537	6,718	56,593	518,280	1,221,130
Pennsylvania	4,302,788	6,609,046	1,365,407	1,399,306	6,068,195	8,508,352
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern	.....	.....	.....	70	.....	70
Virginian	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	30
Western Maryland	29,823	54,298	126,731	87,650	156,559	141,948
Total	7,133,535	10,663,422	2,025,389	2,417,280	10,158,915	14,080,692

NOTE.—Totals do not include amounts of coal received by the New York Central Railroad from connections. The Southern Railway transported from the Tennessee and Alabama districts 297,767 short tons of bituminous coal in July, 1916, and 266,600 short tons in July, 1915.

MARKETS FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Aug. 31.]

Since the beginning of the war, imports of pianos into the Australian market have been largely from the United Kingdom and the United States. American pianos sold in this market include many well-known makes, such as the Steinway, the Chickering, and the Knabe. A representative of one piano house in Sydney states that his firm is now importing from 40 to 50 pianos a month from the United States. These are made by 5 or 6 American manufacturers, in accordance with a design specially prepared and perfected by this house. They are moderate-priced pianos, selling at \$300 to \$400 each. This firm believes that the American manufacturers have an excellent opportunity in spite of the preferential tariff on English pianos.

The latest statistics of imports of pianos into Australia, with comparisons with recent years, are as follows:

Countries.	1910		1911		1912		1913		Jan. 1, 1914, to June 30, 1915.	
	Num-ber.	Value.	Num-ber.	Value.	Num-ber.	Value.	Num-ber.	Value.	Num-ber.	Value.
United States	500	\$62,092	543	\$80,633	659	\$118,947	684	\$126,777	1,871	\$239,242
United Kingdom	1,616	221,346	2,592	355,651	2,224	317,237	1,908	242,487	2,595	325,894
Germany	11,888	1,329,985	16,541	1,885,409	18,083	1,951,926	17,409	1,504,026	2,238	429,961

There are practically no imports from other countries.

English Pianos Imported are High Priced.

Most of the English pianos imported here are very high priced. The upright is preferred, and very few grand pianos are imported. Most of the instruments are shipped direct to the importing houses, which are invariably the retail sellers, and the freight or transportation charges are payable at New York or London. It is very difficult here to ascertain what such costs are, but one dealer informs me that as much as \$97.30 (£20) has been paid for the transportation of one piano from the factory in the United States to Sydney. I am endeavoring, however, to ascertain with greater accuracy, if possible, what the freight rates are from the United States.

Pianos are sold here frequently on installment terms. The customs duty on grand pianos imported from the United Kingdom is now \$58.40 (£12) on each instrument, or 30 per cent ad valorem; from other countries \$73 (£15) on each instrument, or 40 per cent ad valorem; on upright pianos from the United Kingdom, \$34.06, or 30 per cent ad valorem, and from other countries, \$38.93, or 40 per cent ad valorem. Whichever duty returns the higher revenue is the one levied.

[Copies of catalogues and price lists of a piano firm in Sydney, Australia, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Lists of piano importers in Sydney may also be obtained from the same offices, or the cooperative offices of the Bureau. Refer to file No. 80627.]

[Consul Lucien N. Sullivan, Newcastle, Australia, Sept. 11.]

Trade Relations of Newcastle and Sydney.

From a commercial point of view, Newcastle is practically a suburb of Sydney. Pianos are not imported into Newcastle direct. The two stores here selling foreign makes are branches of Sydney houses. One store which sells only Australian pianos is likewise a branch of a Sydney house.

The freight on upright pianos from Sydney to Newcastle is about \$4. This would have to be added to the cost of freight from the United States to Sydney.

Cost prices of pianos from the countries which have been exporting pianos to Australia, calculated from official statistics of the Commonwealth for 1914-15, are: Grand pianos—United Kingdom, \$471; Canada, \$441; Germany, \$334; United States, \$324; upright pianos—United Kingdom, \$152; Canada, \$163; Belgium, \$98; Germany, \$117; United States, \$150.

Average Selling Price of Upright Pianos.

The average selling price of upright pianos ranges from \$321 to \$341. The difference between the cost price and the selling price represents transportation, customs charges, insurance, and dealer's profit.

The manager of one of the stores in Newcastle reports that during the past four years 1,205 pianos were sold here by his firm. Prior to the war not more than 5 per cent of the pianos sold were of American make. Since June 1, 1915, however, 128 American pianos have been sold at one store in Newcastle. The dealers report that the piano trade at present might be considered fair. One dealer states that there is no prejudice against American pianos, and, in fact, in his showroom out of 20 pianos on view 17 were of American

make. There are so few grand pianos sold in this district that the type need not be considered. The cost price of that type is somewhat higher for those of Continental make than for those of American make. The figures are \$344 and \$324.

In upright pianos the cost price of American makes is \$150 against \$117 for the Continental makes.

Prospect for American Sales Very Good.

The manager of an Australian firm was sent to the United States early in 1915 to arrange for buying pianos there. The general opinion prevails that the prospect for American pianos is very good. A firm which maintains a branch house in Newcastle has had two or three men in the United States to superintend the placing of Australian improvements on American pianos. This is also done in England. The improvements are considered essential for the Australian trade. They consist chiefly in changing the piano from a brilliant tone to a softer one. The dealers here buy direct from the manufacturers. There is a good sale for American Steinway instruments.

It is possible to do a much larger business in cheaper grades of pianos than in those of better quality. The time-payment system is considered successful here.

Last year an American firm had a man in this district to introduce pianos which were sent on approval, but the cost of cartage was so large that the plan was not a good proposition financially. There is evidence, however, that American pianos are coming more into favor in this district. The State of Queensland during the year ended June 30, 1915, imported 4 grand and 580 upright pianos of all makes, valued at \$83,168—average, \$142—and during the year ended June 30, 1916, 605, valued at \$88,372—average, \$146. This would indicate that the annual trade in imported pianos in the State of Queensland is in the neighborhood of 600.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Tasmania, Aug. 23.]

Manufacturers Must Meet Demands of Importers.

Soon after the outbreak of the war a prominent Tasmanian firm dealing in musical instruments placed an inquiry for pianos in COMMERCE REPORTS. Considerable business has resulted, although I am informed by a member of this firm that so far it has not been possible to induce American manufacturers to conform to local desires in these instruments. He added, however, that several firms had recently promised him some instruments in conformity to his wishes. If American manufacturers can not satisfy importers in this respect, they must not be surprised if they lose most of their trade when supplies of the kind desired are obtainable.

Very few grand pianos are imported into Tasmania, and it would hardly be worth the trouble and expense to cultivate the market for these, but the imports of upright pianos are of sufficient importance to justify any efforts American manufacturers may be inclined to make in this field.

Buying Power Equal to That of Other States.

As Tasmania has a population of 200,000, which is 4 per cent of the total population of Australia, and as the buying power of the

citizens of this State will compare favorably with that of the citizens of the other States of Australia, there is every reason to think that Tasmania absorbs fully 4 per cent of the total imports of pianos into Australia, a number which would be much greater than the total credited to this State in the customs returns. If any figures were available as to the number of foreign pianos shipped into this State from Melbourne and Sydney, it would be found that Tasmania easily absorbed her full share of the total imports of foreign pianos.

Freight conditions at present are far from favorable. The local firm that has been importing pianos from America was compelled on account of the excessive rates to order that all shipments should be delayed until more favorable conditions prevail in shipping circles.

Changes in Quotations on Ocean Freights.

During June, quotations from New York to Hobart were \$1.25 per cubic foot, while in July this firm received quotations of \$0.95 per cubic foot from New York to Melbourne, which would be about \$1.10 per cubic foot from New York to Hobart, while very recently it received a quotation of \$0.80 per cubic foot from New York to Melbourne, a decided reduction in the past two months, but the firm is inclined to await more favorable rates. This house has been importing organs from America for years, and previous to the war it was accustomed to pay about \$0.20 per cubic foot on such goods from New York to Hobart, while rates often were much lower than that figure from England and Germany.

I am forwarding a list of piano firms, two of which already have been brought to the attention of American exporters as in the market for pianos. The headquarters for the third firm is in Melbourne, though it has branches in Hobart and Launceston. Purchases are usually made by the main office. The fourth firm in the list has a large business in phonographs, while the other firms carry pianos and furniture.

[The list of dealers mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80619.]

NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 28.]

Opportunity for Increase of American Sales.

American pianos are not well known in New Zealand, for the reasons that they are more expensive than the Continental pianos that have been sold here, and the United Kingdom and possessions enjoy a preferential duty of 10 per cent, which has made it difficult for the American manufacturer to compete with the English make. At this time, however, the preferential duty is offset by the difficulty experienced in obtaining pianos.

American manufacturers of musical instruments who are interested in the business should organize for this field and cover the territory thoroughly. The people of New Zealand are better able to purchase musical instruments than ever before, and there should be a market for 1,000 or 1,500 American pianos in this Dominion within the next year. One firm states that it has given one manufacturer

an order for 80 pianos on condition that the cases shall be built according to European models, and has ordered 6 pianos from another firm, with the intimation that many more orders would follow if the requirements were met.

Imports of Pianos During Recent Years.

The imports of pianos into New Zealand, in numbers and values, by countries, for 1913, 1914, 1915, and the first six months of 1916 were:

Countries.	1913		1914		1915		Six months, 1916.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
Australia.....	18	\$5,256	1	\$253	2	\$341	2	\$423
Canada.....	1	204	.....	.....	11	1,912	16	1,985
France.....	9	1,040	28	6,151	38	7,343	25	4,965
Germany.....	2,262	252,480	1,480	168,887	41	5,003	2	292
United Kingdom.....	2,854	388,230	2,270	281,627	3,224	372,623	1,290	178,825
United States.....	58	13,728	25	3,965	45	9,494	42	7,017
All other countries.....	.....	.....	5	404	2	190	2	200
Total.....	5,202	661,838	3,809	461,207	3,363	896,906	1,379	193,716

A careful study of this table will make it clear that American piano manufacturers, and in fact manufacturers of all kinds of musical instruments, have neglected this field, for it will be noticed that the United States supplied only 58 pianos during 1913 out of total imports of 5,202 instruments.

European Style of Case Most Popular.

The European style of case is most popular here, because it is better known, but it is probable that an active propaganda for American styles would win. However, it is well to cater to local tastes unless one is prepared to enter on such a campaign.

Only the cheaper pianos have been imported from the United States up to the present time, and these are being sold here now at \$390 to \$490 after paying the duty of 30 per cent and the exceedingly high freight rates. Before the war Continental pianos were sold here at \$220 up.

Manufacturers and exporters should give c. i. f. prices whenever possible, and never less than f. o. b. steamer at port of shipment; and should put themselves in a position at least to allow the purchasers to pay against documents at port of arrival in New Zealand. European manufacturers in general have extended similar or even better terms, and American houses must meet these conditions if they are to get and hold any great proportion of the business.

Good Field for Pianolas and Phonographs.

There is a good field in New Zealand for pianolas, phonographs, gramophones, records, etc., and it will pay Americans to cultivate it. European manufacturers formerly supplied a large proportion of these lines, and as this supply is greatly restricted, the way is cleared for American manufacturers, who should make the most of it.

Imports of musical instruments, phonographs, gramophones, records, etc., into New Zealand for 1914, 1915, and the first six months of 1916 by countries of origin were:

Countries.	1914	1915	Six months, 1916.	Countries.	1914	1915	Six months, 1916.
ORGANS AND HARMONIUMS.				OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Canada	\$7,208	\$6,355	\$486	Australia	\$409	\$448	\$380
Germany	1,064	.....	.....	Canada	273	287	204
Japan .....	.....	.....	156	France	2,355	8,063	1,763
United Kingdom	1,002	2,667	1,942	Germany	21,159	2,677	920
United States	9,806	5,296	2,769	Italy	185	579	127
Total	19,095	14,317	5,353	Japan .....	.....	161	49
PIANOLAS, PHONOGRAPHS, ETC.				Switzerland	44	895	83
Australia	1,183	545	182	United Kingdom	35,156	36,392	21,865
Austria-Hungary	399	.....	.....	United States	2,764	7,232	3,796
Belgium	443	121	.....	All other	764	223	34
Canada	86	394	.....	Total	63,109	56,977	29,200
France	642	486	229	ACTION WORK, KEYS, METAL FRAMES, PIPES, ETC.			
Germany	9,071	229	.....	France	88	973	.....
Japan .....	.....	122	.....	Germany	1,231	19	.....
Switzerland	1,377	613	341	United Kingdom	9,699	6,030	2,720
United Kingdom	47,569	30,761	33,462	United States	302	254	15
United States	25,510	18,639	12,279	All other	93	166	.....
All other	256	10	15	Total	11,412	7,572	2,735
Total	86,520	51,930	52,428	OTHER PARTS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
RECORDS FOR PIANOLAS, ETC.				Australia	112	58	176
Australia	4,642	462	375	Belgium	1,114	.....	.....
Belgium	2,170	1,494	.....	France	58	261	248
France	49	3,431	1,425	Germany	516	88	88
Germany	3,251	73	.....	United Kingdom	3,523	6,409	3,377
United Kingdom	48,993	86,761	41,634	United States	2,871	3,231	1,085
United States	22,527	22,853	17,495	All other	156	24	159
All other	165	117	68	Total	8,350	10,671	5,132
Total	91,738	65,191	60,397				

Tariff Rates on Musical Instruments.

These lines are very largely handled by piano and music dealers. All musical instruments, records, and materials not otherwise enumerated are classified under Item No. 133 of the New Zealand tariff and pay an import duty of 20 per cent from the United Kingdom and possessions and 10 per cent additional from all other countries, with a special war tax of 1 per cent. Action work, keys, and metal frames, for making organs, harmoniums, and pianos, also organ pipes and stop knobs are classified under Item No. 326 and enter free from all countries, with the exception of the war tax of 1 per cent.

Various American musical instruments under ordinary circumstances are well received in New Zealand, but the prices have been higher than for those from European manufacturers. The sales of European musical instruments also have been pushed more energetically, which means much for these lines.

[A list of dealers in musical instruments, etc., at Auckland may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81128.]

ITALY.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, Aug. 24.]

Musical Instruments at the Port of Venice.

By decree published June 8, 1916, the importation of musical instruments into Italy is prohibited, though exceptions are allowed from time to time. In such cases permission must be obtained by the

importers, who are obliged to send their demands through the local chambers of commerce to the competent authorities.

Upright pianos are classed under No. 1167 of the General Statistics of Commerce, and the value for statistical purposes is 570 lire (\$110.01 at mint rate) each for importation, and 690 lire (\$133.17 at mint rate) each for importation. In the Italian customs tariff upright pianos are classed under No. 458, b, I, and the Italian duty is assessed at 90 lire (\$17.37 at mint rate) per unit.

In 1914 there were 3,431 upright pianos imported into Italy, and of these 3,026 were furnished by Germany, and 195 by the United States. Of this number 38 entered at the port of Venice in 1914, as follows: From Austria, 8; Germany, 25; United States, 5. In addition to these, 15 other pianos, which arrived at Venice from Germany in June, 1914, before the outbreak of war, were passed through the customhouse in the following year and will figure in the statistics of 1915, not yet accessible.

Exports of Upright Pianos from Italy.

During the same period 246 upright pianos were exported from Italy, of which 7 were sent to the United States. None, however, were exported through the port of Venice.

In 1914 there were 138 grand pianos imported into Italy, of which 119 were furnished by Germany, and only 1 was imported from the United States. During this period only one grand piano was imported at the port of Venice, and this was the one from the United States. In this same period 10 grand pianos were exported, of which 6 were sent to the Argentine Republic. None of these, however, passed through the port of Venice.

Grand pianos are classed under No. 1168 of the General Statistics of Commerce, and the value for statistical purposes is 1,300 lire each (\$250.90 at mint rate). In the Italian customs tariff grand pianos are classed under No. 458, b, 2, and duty is assessed at 180 lire (34.74 at mint rate) per piano.

Tariff Rates on Phonographs and Gramophones.

Phonographs and gramophones are classed under No. 317 of the Italian customs tariff and pay a duty of 75 lire per Italian quintal of 220 pounds (per pound, $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents at mint rate) on the actual net weight, at the general tariff rate, but the United States enjoys the privilege of the most-favored-nation clause in the commercial treaty and the corresponding conventional rate of 30 lire per Italian quintal, equal to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound at mint rate. This duty is, however, assessed on the legal net weight, 8 per cent being allowed as legal tare for packing in cases.

Prices should be in Italian lire, c. i. f. Genoa, as the port of Venice is now closed. Credit of from 90 to 120 days is generally required by Italian dealers, and piano dealers require even longer credit.

[Lists of piano dealers and dealers in phonographs and gramophones in the Venice consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80463.]

The resumption of service between New York and the West Indies by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. has been postponed until January 13, as the steamers *Tagus* and *Danube* will not be ready in December.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3738.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which Bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 319, fuel oil apparatus, and water tube boilers; schedule 320, binoculars, range finders, stadimeters, feed tube sight telescopes, and gun sight telescopes; schedule 321, boring, drilling, and milling machine; schedule 322, bronze drop forgings, steel drop forgings, sheet steel, and spares for torpedoes; schedule 323, squeezer type molding machines, brass tube sheets, and rod manganese bronze; schedule 324, gray prison flannel; schedule 325, 5-horsepower turning gear motors; schedule 326, brass voice tubing; schedule 327, portable foam fire extinguisher, rubber air hose, steam jacketed kettles, trough urinals, 72-inch bleached and unbleached cotton sheeting, metallic brown in oil, and paint and varnish remover; schedule 328, worm geared chain blocks, wedge point soldering coppers, gauge glass cutters, portable blacksmith's forges, hinges, metal workers' soapstone pencils, planers, cutter blocks, etc., and brass wood screws; schedule 329, brass pipe, copper pipe, and brass evaporator tubes; schedule 330, armored controller cable, telephone cable, copper tubular wire connectors, twin lamp cord, telephone cord, silicon bronze antenna wire, and double conductor wire; schedule 331, white bone buttons, jersey cloth for bathing trunks, and black and white sewing cotton; schedule 332, corn brooms; schedule 333, fine granulated cork, 32-inch by 75-foot tarred sheathing felt, rubber suction hose, mattress twine, 1½ inch by ¾ inch calcium carbide, putty, and composition and galvanized iron steam and water fittings; schedule 334, sheet emery cloth, files, 2-foot long 4-fold boxwood rules, steel cap screws, and knife handle screw wrenches; schedule 335, rags for wiping machinery, bar brass, composition and galvanized iron steam and water fittings, and brass pipe; schedule 336, steel (liners) forgings.

Tree planting, No. 3739.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 14, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal buildings in the States of Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, in accordance with specifications, copies of which may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Hospital supplies, No. 3740.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until October 30, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., 1-quart bowls, cups, oval pans, pitchers, plates, coffee pots, sauce pots, saucers, and soup tureens. Specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Tree planting, No. 3741.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 16, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal buildings in the States of North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, in accordance with specifications, copies of which may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Canal excavation, No. 3742.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Reclamation Service, Mills Building, El Paso, Tex., until November 24, 1916, for canal excavation and levee construction. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Two additional American agencies were opened in Curacao, Dutch West Indies, during the September quarter, reports Consul G. S. Messersmith, one representing a Louisiana import company and the other an Ohio soap works.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Cement-----	22805	General merchandise-----	22811
Chickory, dried-----	22807	Hardware-----	22810
Coffee-----	22805	Hosiery-----	22809
Cotton goods-----	22809	Knit goods-----	22809
Electrical fittings-----	22812	Machinery, macaroni, etc-----	22806
Fertilizers-----	22808	Spices-----	22805
Fish, cod-----	22805	Underwear-----	22809
Flour-----	22813	Wire, steel-----	22814
Food products-----	22813	Woolen goods-----	22809

22805.*—A firm in Spain desires to import dried codfish, coffee, pepper, cloves, cinnamon, and Portland cement. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

22806.†—A man in Colombia wishes to receive catalogues and full information, prices, etc., of machines used in the manufacture of macaroni, pastes of all kinds, soups, etc.

22807.*—A manufacturer in France using sliced chicory root desires to receive samples of at least 2 or 3 kilograms (4.4 lbs. or 6.6 lbs.) by parcel post, together with prices and terms for lots of 100 metric tons (1 metric ton is equivalent to 2,204.6 lbs.). Reference.

22808.*—The owner of a large estate in Spain desires to purchase fertilizers. Correspondence in English. Reference.

22809.*—A manufacturers' agent in Argentina is desirous of securing the agency of an American manufacturer or exporter of woollen and cotton piece goods, knit goods of all kinds, including hosiery, underwear, etc. References. Correspondence in English.

22810.*—A firm of hardware merchants in India desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of general hardware.

22811.†—The representative of a firm in Venezuela, who is now in the United States, desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise with a view to securing general agencies for that country.

22812.‡—An import house in the Far East desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of electric-light fittings for dwellings, such as china clay fittings, brass articles, switches, cut-outs, holders, shades, table and ceiling fans, etc. Full information as to prices, discounts, etc., is desired. References.

22813.†—A firm in the United States informs the Bureau that one of its customers in Mexico desires to represent American exporters of foodstuffs and provisions of all kinds. Direct connections with flour mills in the United States is desired.

22814.*—A manufacturer of metallic cables in Switzerland is in the market for steel wire. Annual requirements, 15 to 20 carloads. Quotations are desired on 30 tons of galvanized steel wire, with a resistance of 120/40 kilograms to the cubic millimeter, in the following lots: 3,000 kilos, 0.4 mm.; 6,000 kilos, 0.5 mm.; 6,000 kilos, 0.6 mm.; 5,000 kilos, 0.7 mm.; 5,000 kilos, 0.8 mm.; 5,000 kilos, 0.9 mm. Delivery close of present year. References. Correspondence in French or German.

NEW FORM FOR "TRADE OPPORTUNITIES."

With this issue of COMMERCE REPORTS a change is made in the form of publishing "Foreign Trade Opportunities," the chief feature of which is an alphabetical list of the articles for which opportunities are given. The source of the inquiries is indicated by symbols. It is believed that the new form will enable the readers of COMMERCE REPORTS to find more easily and quickly the items in which they are interested.

1916 COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 254 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 28 1916

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SWISS POTATO CROP FAILURE.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 7.]

The Swiss Department of Agriculture announces a potato shortage and the purchase of large quantities of corn and rice as substitutes, which it is hoped will arrive in time to tide over the country. The potato shortage is attributed to the heavy spring rains and the limited imports.

Owing to their scarcity the sale of potatoes has become a city monopoly. They are placed on sale but once a week. American shippers interested in potato exports should address the Department of Agriculture, Berne, Switzerland, in the German or French language.

[Reports on the potato trade and supplies in Switzerland were published in COMMERCIAL REPORTS for Aug. 18 and Sept. 7, 1916.]

PROJECTED BATUM-TREBIZOND RAILROAD.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 12.]

The British consul at Batum reports, under date of September 11, that the Russian Government has decided to build a railroad from Batum to Trebizond, and that the work of carrying out this scheme has recently been taken in hand. The new railway, which is to be of the ordinary Russian broad-gauge type, is, as far as possible, to skirt the foot of the mountains and follow the coast. It is said that at some points of the proposed track the mountain cliffs are perpendicular to the seashore. Although in several instances the inclines will be fairly steep, the ruling gradients are to be easy. Many rivulets and streams have to be spanned, and embankments constructed over alluvial flats. In spite of the difficulties that they have to encounter in building the line, the State engineers are confident that they will be able to bring the works to a satisfactory termination in six months, which is the limit of time given for completing the line and beginning to work it. It is not expected that the new line will be of much value for general commercial purposes for some years to come.

NICARAGUA'S SUPPLY OF RAILROAD CROSSTIES.

[Consul John A. Gamon, Corinto, Sept. 21.]

The coast lands of Nicaragua's Pacific slope are rich in woods suitable for railroad crossties in great variety, but exportation has not been undertaken. The Ferrocarril del Pacifico de Nicaragua has drawn heavily upon available woods near its right of way, and ties are now very scarce within 5 miles of the railroad. All those now used are hewn ties; it would be difficult and expensive to obtain sawn ties.

Ties for export should be taken from the Consequina Peninsula, the eastern shore of the Gulf of Fonseca, or the coast lands south from Cape Desolado to San Juan del Sur. Good anchorage may be found inside of Monypenny Point, in the Gulf of Fonseca. These waters accommodate either steamers or sailing vessels of deep draft. San Juan del Sur offers the only other anchorage with loading facilities on the coast, although small ships might load at favorable points from Cape Desolado south. Loading at such points probably could be accomplished to the best advantage by rafting. A small quantity of ties would be available for shipment through the port of Corinto, which is the terminal of the Ferrocarril del Pacifico de Nicaragua. The water on the bar at the entrance to this port at mean low water is approximately 27 feet.

Best Woods Available for the Industry.

The best woods available for ties are madera negra, nacascola, guyacan, nispero, quebracho, guachipilin, vainillo, guiliguiste, guapinol, mora, granadillo, almendro, coñancuba, gavilan, and chiquirin. The weight of these woods will average 63 pounds to the cubic foot. Of the woods listed, madera negra is probably the best for crossties. The average life of the woods mentioned is from 8 to 10 years in roadbeds without ballast, but they will average from 10 to 12 years in ballast.

One million ties could be furnished yearly at Consequina Peninsula and a similar quantity on the coast section from Rio Tamadindo south to San Juan del Sur.

Hewed crossties are used on the Ferrocarril del Pacifico de Nicaragua, and measure 6 by 8 inches by 7 feet (minimum), and cost 28 cents placed alongside the rails. A man who is in the tie business states that ties measuring 6 by 8 inches by 9 feet would cost approximately 40 cents each. Other persons in the hardwood business believe that hewed ties could be laid down at ship's side for about 30 cents each if shipped on the coast or in the Gulf of Fonseca, exclusive of export duties. For ties carried to Corinto by rail there would be an added freight charge of about 27 cents and a wharfage charge of 85 cents per ton. The cost of loading ties should not exceed 2½ cents each.

Nicaraguan Customs Tariff.

The Nicaraguan customs tariff provides for an export duty of \$3 per ton on lumber and cabinet woods, but this has been suspended during the course of the European war.

A resident of Managua makes all arrangements for the ties used by the Ferrocarril del Pacifico de Nicaragua, and is the only person in the tie business in western Nicaragua. Another man at San Juan del Sur would be in a position to purchase and ship ties upon order,

and it is believed that a resident of Chinandega is in a position to take up such a proposition. Correspondence with all of these persons may be in English.

[The names of the three persons mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81090.]

SOUTH AFRICA'S MINERAL OUTPUT FOR HALF YEAR.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 12.]

The Imperial Trade Correspondent at Johannesburg has forwarded preliminary statistics recently issued by the South African Department of Mines, from which it appears that the production of gold, silver, and coal in the Union during the first half of the current year was as follows, the corresponding figures for 1915 being added for purposes of comparison:

Metals and minerals.	January-June, 1915.		January-June, 1916.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold.....fine ounces..	4,407,776	\$91,115,695	4,633,370	\$95,779,280
Silver.....do.....	473,471	256,810	485,470	260,295
Coal.....short tons..	3,909,714	4,58,630	4,791,032	6,65,780
Base minerals other than coal		2,754,740		4,177,685
Total.....		98,965,875		106,483,040

THE AUSTRALIAN BLACK OPOSSUM IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 26.]

The Australian black opossum has been introduced into New Zealand with good results in the main, but there is some opposition on the part of fruit growers, for the reason that it is claimed they destroy fruit trees, and especially the younger trees.

In some parts of the country, especially in the South Island, the raising of these black opossums has become quite remunerative, since their skins are sold at from 14s to 21s (\$3.40 to \$5.10), and in one wooded district in the South Island it is stated skins were taken during one year to the value of £60,000 (\$291,990).

These animals increase rapidly, and it is contended that if they can be confined to the wooded sections of the country there can be no particular objection to their introduction in the North Island, where the greatest objections are now being made.

Brazilian-Portuguese Steamer Service Sought.

Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, of Rio de Janeiro, reports that the Camara Portuguesa de Commercio e Industria do Rio de Janeiro (the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Rio de Janeiro) has addressed by cable a memorial, signed by over 200 prominent importing and exporting firms, to the President of the Republic of Portugal, the Brazilian ambassador at Lisbon, and the chambers of commerce of the principal Portuguese cities, urging the establishment of a Portuguese line of steamers between Portugal and Brazil, utilizing for the purpose the requisitioned German steamers.

UNITED STATES SHARES IN TRADE OF COOK ISLANDS.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 12.]

From the Annual Report of the Resident Commissioner at Rarotonga it appears that during the calendar year 1915 there was a falling off in both the import and the export trade of the territory under the Cook Islands Administration. Eliminating specie, the decrease amounted to \$121,450, imports having declined by \$93,150 and exports by \$28,300. Of the imports into the Cook Islands, which totaled \$319,200, \$253,075 worth came from New Zealand, \$24,850 from the United Kingdom, and \$24,685 from the United States. Exports from the Cook Islands amounted to \$306,865, of which \$262,400 worth went to New Zealand and \$43,000 to the United States.

The pearl-shell trade of the Cook Islands has been stagnant since the outbreak of the war. The output of copra was 773 tons, as compared with 922 tons in 1914. The price of copra has been good, but traders have had to face a rise in freights, and there has also been a shortage of bottoms.

As regards fruit, the banana trade is steadily declining. In 1914 the Cook Islands exported 105,000 cases, while in 1915 only 61,870 cases were sent away. Drought affected the banana crops to some extent, but the decline is also due to the fact that the natives are not planting as they did in former years. The output of oranges totaled 98,447 cases, as compared with 114,338 cases in 1914, but this class of fruit receives no cultivation. The tomato industry is very promising; in 1914 only 1,201 boxes of tomatoes, valued at \$2,980, were shipped, while in 1915, 13,119 boxes, valued at \$28,940, were exported.

The fruit-export industry has suffered because of the lack of means of communication with New Zealand, which would enable growers and exporters to time their deliveries at the wharves to meet vessels. It is intended to surmount this difficulty by installing a wireless station at Rarotonga at a cost of \$25,000.

BRITISH PROHIBITIONS OF EXPORTATION.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 24.]

Proclamations prohibiting exports from the United Kingdom have been further amended. The following headings are deleted: From prohibitions to all destinations—hemp (other than manila hemp), old hemp ropes, hemp waste; rubber hose covered with steel wire; silk braid, silk cloth, silk thread, suitable for cartridges; silk noils. From prohibitions to all non-British destinations—chronometers; gloves, made wholly or partly of leather; binder and reaper twine; hemp cloth, hemp cordage and twine (except cordage or twine of manila hemp and binder or reaper twine); hosiery; needles; goods made wholly or partly of rubber, gutta percha, and balata (except rubber hose covered with silk wire); hair or woolled sheepskins; broad silks of all kinds, whether all silk or of silk mixed with other yarns (except with artificial silk yarn or metal threads) in the grey or discharged, undyed, dyed, or printed, but unweighted; schappe and spun yarns; Shantung silk; silk, raw or thrown; silk waste. From prohibitions to nonallied European countries—hemp braid; manila hemp; cordage and twine of manila hemp.

The following headings are added: To prohibitions to all destinations—basic slag and superphosphates; chronometers; copper wire and cables containing copper; Italian, Russian, and manila hemp, maguey fiber and manufactures thereof; rubber hose, armored and reinforced with steel and iron wire; silk cocoons; raw silk and all threads, yarns, and twists thereof (except thrown silk undyed); all threads, yarns, and twist of tussah silk and of artificial silk; silk waste of all kinds (including artificial silk waste) and all threads, yarns, and twists thereof, including noils and noil yarns. To prohibitions to all non-British destinations—binder twine (except binder twine made of manila hemp); needles, hosiery machine (latch and bearded); goods made wholly or partly of rubber, gutta percha, or balata, (except rubber hose, armored or reinforced with steel or iron wire); haired or wooled sheepskins and pelts; tissues and fabrics of silk of all kinds and widths (including artificial silk) whether pure or mixed with other yarns or materials, in the gray or discharged, undyed, dyed or printed, unweighted or weighted. To prohibitions to nonallied European countries—agar-agar; gloves, wholly or partly leather; hemp and manufactures thereof (except binder twine, Italian, Russian and manila hemp, maguey fiber and manufactures thereof); quillaia bark; made-up articles of silk or artificial silk of all kinds, whether pure or mixed with other yarns or materials; poplar wood.

[The prohibition to nonallied European countries should be stated in full as follows: To all destinations in foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than France and French possessions, Russia, Italy and Italian possessions, Spain and Portugal, and to all ports in any such foreign countries, and to all Russian Baltic ports.

The most recent announcement in regard to British export embargoes appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 3.]

STATIONERY AND INK IN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, Sept. 4.]

There is a considerable demand for paper at Singapore, especially for various grades of stationery. There has been a noticeable inquiry for onionskin paper. A shortage of copying and colored inks and copying pencils is reported in the local market.

The total imports of stationery into the Straits Settlements during 1915 amounted to \$318,456, United States currency, of which \$165,174 came from the United Kingdom, \$36,350 from other countries of Europe, \$24,779 from Hongkong, China, and Japan, and \$11,987 from the United States.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

SHORTAGE OF MANUFACTURES IN RUSSIAN URAL REGION.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 12.]

In a report dated September 6, the British consul at Ekaterinburg writes that a dearth of manufactured goods that formerly were imported is now being experienced in his consular district. Local firms that have been fortunate enough to obtain small parcels of such articles as steel instruments, tools, files, bolts, rivets, wire, and electrical fittings, for which Ekaterinburg has always been a keen business center, have been able to make sales at high prices. New machinery from abroad (at any rate for private enterprises) being out of the question, a lively trade is being carried on in secondhand machinery, which is being bought up all over the country and resold at large profits. Great inconvenience is being caused also by the shortage of shoes, clothes, linen and woolen goods, gloves, hats and haberdashery, china and glassware, ornaments, stationery and office supplies, groceries, etc.

Some trade was attempted with the United Kingdom in several of these classes of goods, but without results. Orders have since been placed in the United States and Japan, whence goods are beginning to arrive. Orders for pharmaceutical products also were negotiated with United Kingdom firms, but the negotiations were unsuccessful, chiefly on account of high prices, and the orders were eventually placed in the United States. Local tradesmen express regret that they are unable to do any business at present with the United Kingdom; the difficulty of exchange and cash payments would not stand in the way if only reasonable delivery could be guaranteed. Local British agents, who are overwhelmed with orders and inquiries from the Ural works, state that they have been able to mark time, as it were, by selling goods bought in Russia by their Moscow and other buyers in place of the goods they can not get from the United Kingdom. They add, however, that they can not keep this up much longer; that, in fact, they are being ousted now by Swedes, Americans, and Japanese, and are likely to lose entirely their good connections.

POSTAL CHARGES INCREASED IN HUNGARY.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Budapest, Sept. 26.]

In conjunction with new postal treaties concluded with Germany and Austria, beginning October 1, 1916, the postal charges in Hungary are increased to correspond with the new scale in Germany and Austria. Postage on letters for Hungary, Austria, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Germany, up to 20 grams is 15 fillérs, and for every additional 20 grams 5 fillérs (gram=0.035 ounce; fillér=0.2 cent). The former rate up to 20 grams was 10 fillérs; for 20 to 250 grams, 20 fillérs; for 250 to 500 grams, 30 fillérs. On local or drop letters the rate is 10 fillérs per 20 grams and 5 fillérs for every additional 20 grams instead of the former rate of 6 fillérs up to 20 grams, 12 fillérs up to 250 grams, and 18 fillérs up to 500 grams.

Change in Rate for Postal Cards—Printed Matter.

The rate on postal cards written on regular postal forms is 8 fillérs each, and on other postal cards such as picture cards 10 fillérs instead of the former rate of 5 fillérs for all postal cards.

On printed matter the rate is fixed at 3 fillérs per 50 grams instead of the former rate, which was: Up to 10 grams, 2 fillérs; from 10 to 50 grams, 3 fillérs; from 50 to 150 grams, 5 fillérs; from 150 to 250 grams, 10 fillérs; from 250 to 500 grams, 20 fillérs; and from 500 to 1,000 grams, 30 fillérs.

The fee for registration on all letters, whatever their destination, is 25 fillérs. This differs from the old rate in that it increases the registration on drop letters which was formerly 10 fillérs.

An innovation is the "express" or special delivery for printed matter for an additional 2 fillérs. The rate of postage on samples is 5 fillérs per 50 grams instead of the former tariff, which was 3 fillérs up to 50 grams, 10 fillérs from 50 to 250 grams, and 20 fillérs from 250 to 350 grams.

Zone System Abolished in Parcel-Post Rates.

Instead of the former system of zones for the parcel post, a general rate for all parts of Hungary has been fixed as follows: Up to 5 kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds), 70 fillérs; from 5 to 10 kilos, 1.50 crowns (crown=20.26 cents); from 10 to 15 kilos, 2.50 crowns; from 15 to 20 kilos, 3.50 crowns; to Austria, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, up to 5 kilos, 80 fillérs; from 5 to 10 kilos, 2 crowns; from 10 to 15 kilos, 3 crowns; from 15 to 20 kilos, 4 crowns; to Germany, up to 5 kilos, 1 crown; to Prussia, Schleswig, Prussian Saxony, Thuringen, Anhalt, Baden, Siegmaringen, and Bavaria, from 5 to 10 kilos, 3 crowns; from 10 to 15 kilos, 5 crowns; from 15 to 20 kilos, 7 crowns; packages to other parts of Germany, from 5 to 10 kilos, 3.40 crowns; from 10 to 15 kilos, 6.20 crowns; from 15 to 20 kilos, 9 crowns. Packages weighing more than 20 kilos are not accepted.

For money orders up to 10 crowns the fee is now 15 fillérs, and 5 fillérs is charged for every additional 50 crowns. The former rate was: Up to 20 crowns, 10 fillérs; up to 100 crowns, 20 fillérs; up to 300 crowns, 40 fillérs; up to 600 crowns, 60 fillérs, and up to 1,000 crowns, 100 fillérs.

Time for Proposals Extended on West Indies Project.

The Government of Grenada, British West Indies, announces that it has extended the time for tenders for supplying electricity for lighting and power purposes in the town of St. Georges to December 31, 1916. The original announcement regarding this project was published as Trade Opportunity No. 22251, in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 26, 1916. It was stated at that time that a plan of the town and a memorandum of particulars would be supplied on application to the Colonial Secretary, Grenada, British West Indies, accompanied by a deposit of £2 2s. (\$10.22), which will be refunded if the plan and memorandum are returned with a bona fide tender. The change of time has been reported by Consul Andrew J. McConico, at Trinidad.

Result of Trade Opportunities.

Consul Felix S. S. Johnson reports from Kingston, Ontario, that as a result of a Trade Opportunity that appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS, a local firm gave an order for harmonicas in New York City.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ITEMS FROM NORWAY.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Oct. 4.]

New Electrical Power Station—Hydroelectric Works.

The Norwegian Stadsraad has announced its approval of the scheme of the communal authorities at Gjerstad to raise a loan of \$8,000 for the purchase of a waterfall as a beginning of the work of construction of the projected communal electric power station and electric light and power installation.

The communal administrations of Jevnaker, Lunner, Gran, and Grandbu have decided to raise a loan of \$134,000, under the common guarantee of the several communes in order to enlarge the Hadeland electric station.

The Bremanger Power Co. has decided to exploit the Svelvasdrag falls at Bremanger, which will have a capacity of 21,000 turbine horsepower. It is proposed to erect a factory for the manufacture of carbide and cyanamide, with a production of 30,000 tons of carbide per annum, one-third of which will be used in the manufacture of cyanamide. The company may also decide to manufacture ferro-silicon.

Rise in Price of Building Material—Record Customs Receipts.

The prices for all building materials have risen to such an extent—bricks, for instance, 100 per cent; lime, 50 per cent; and cement, about 33 per cent—that the fixing of maximum prices is being urgently advocated.

The great prosperity existing in Norway at present is reflected in the increased revenues of the customs department, which for the 12 months ended September 30, 1916, amounted to \$16,937,600, as compared with \$15,597,600 for the 12 months ended September 30, 1915. The period showing the greatest increase was the last three months, July to September, when the receipts amounted to \$4,696,700, as compared with \$3,449,428 in the same three months of 1915.

New Electric-Chemical Works—Electrical Automobile Factory.

A French-American syndicate is about to start a large electro-chemical works in Norway, in the Telemarken district. It is stated that about 100,000 horsepower will be needed and that the requisite power is to be obtained from the Maar Falls in Tinn. When these falls are fully developed an aggregate of as much as 180,000 horsepower is anticipated.

It is reported that in the near future a company will be started in Christiania for the construction of electrical automobiles. These automobiles will find a great field along the routes of the western coast where electric power is easily available. The tourist travel in that section of the country has developed so rapidly that preparations must be made for an increased service to handle it properly. It is thought that the introduction of cars propelled electrically is practical and of the greatest economic importance.

New Tanning Factory.

Subscriptions have been obtained in Bergen for a new industrial establishment for the purpose of manufacturing tanning extracts, under the name of Den Norske Garveextraktfabrik, with a capital

of between \$200,000 and \$400,000. The new company will be located near Bergen and expects to begin operations in about a year.

Electrification of Drammen Railway.

In connection with the electrification of the state railway running from Christiania to Drammen, it has been decided that the Government will erect its own power station at some waterfalls acquired about two years ago. The estimated cost for the installation of the motive power is \$1,100,000 for the powerhouse at Hakavik, \$1,200,000 for rolling stock, and \$670,000 for installation and transmission of currency, a total of \$2,970,000. Detailed plans are nearly finished and the field work will commence at once. It is estimated that the Hakavik power station will develop 17,200 horsepower, but at the beginning it is intended to install only three sets of 4,500 horsepower each. The question of electrifying other Government roads is also being discussed, but nothing definite will be done probably until the completion of the Drammen railway.

Norwegian Coal Combine.

A joint stock company has recently been formed in Norway with a capital of between 3 and 5½ million crowns. The promoters have bought for 3,000,000 crowns the property of the Advent Bay Coal-field Co. on Spitzbergen, which is estimated to contain 400,000,000 tons of coal and also the coal fields of the Svalbard Co. at Green Harbor, which are estimated to contain 200,000,000 tons of coal. The yearly production of both coal fields is estimated at 200,000 tons.

Iceland Herring—Commercial Organization.

The Stavanger "Aftenblad" announces that an agreement has been reached between Norway and Great Britain regarding the purchase by England of Iceland herrings. Prices for the sale of herrings to England will in future be fixed by the British and Norwegian Governments jointly.

Delegates from the leading Swedish and Danish commercial organizations recently met in Christiania at the invitation of the Norwegian commercial organizations. The object of the meeting was to discuss a plan for the establishing of joint Scandinavian commercial organization. It is understood that the plan has been agreed upon and the statutes drafted. It will be submitted to the respective national organizations for approval and it is hoped that the proposed Scandinavian organization will soon be an accomplished fact.

Regulation of Food Supplies.

The methods heretofore adopted by the Norwegian Government for the regulation of food supplies not having proved entirely satisfactory, a board of control, consisting of 15 members, has now been established to replace the food commission created at the outbreak of the war. The continual rise in the cost of most articles of consumption is becoming a serious matter, although the country is very prosperous. According to official statistics, the prices of food and other necessities have risen much higher in Norway than in the other two Scandinavian countries, and even higher than in some of the countries at war.

EFFECT OF RISE OF CHILEAN EXCHANGE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 26.]

The value of the Chilean peso in exchange was quoted yesterday (Sept. 25) as 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ pence, equal to 21.7 cents United States currency. At the end of June, 1916, the value of the peso was 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ pence (18.7 cents), and at the end of June, 1915, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ pence (16.1 cents).

The rise, counting from the end of June of this year, has been steady, with the rate of advance accelerated during the present month. General exchange-market predictions are that the value of the peso may reach 12 pence (24.3 cents) before the end of the year, but that it may drop back to 10 pence or lower shortly thereafter—future exchange conditions being considered highly speculative, since they depend to a large extent on conditions outside the country, such as the foreign demand for nitrate and the export price of copper.

The explanation generally given for the present advance in the value of the peso is that the value of the Chilean exports has far outrun the value of the country's imports, with the results that there is an over-supply of foreign credits and only a light demand for foreign bills of exchange.

Affects Profits and the Cost of Production.

This rise in exchange, while it is undoubtedly profitable for many industries, adversely affects others. Importing interests which have bought their present stocks on the basis of a lower exchange should be marketing them now at a decided advantage, but retail buyers insistingly demand reductions in currency prices on goods commensurate with the increased value of the peso. Furthermore, these importing houses have sold the various retailers the stocks at present held by the latter on current account or on credit terms of three to six months.

In view of the fact that the retailers now have to pay at an advanced rate of exchange for stocks purchased three months ago, and that general buying from the retailer—who can not afford to reduce his prices—has fallen off because of the high value of the peso, it is probable that the importing houses will have to carry a large number of these accounts until exchange has dropped to a more normal level.

The exporter also is affected as he is receiving a decreasing number of pesos on his foreign drafts.

The cost of production in all industries has naturally increased with the increased value of the peso, as all labor accounts and practically all domestic material accounts are payable in currency.

Makes the Cost of Living Higher.

The cost of living has increased in proportion as the peso has advanced in value because since the peso is subject to rapid and unforeseeable variation in value, there has been no reduction in the prices of articles for the consumer, house rent, etc. On the contrary, these have increased since the outbreak of the European war.

This has created a particularly difficult position for all employees in this country on a gold salary. For example, a man in Chile on a salary set in United States currency at the end of June, 1915,

could exchange his salary for pesos at the rate of 6.29 pesos to the dollar. At present he would receive in exchange only 4.68 pesos for a dollar, with the number of pesos to be expended in general living expenses remaining the same. In other words his salary, in so far as he has to spend it within the country, has been reduced by something over 25 per cent.

ADOPTION OF STANDARD TIME IN GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Sept. 29.]

Although there has not yet been any agitation in Greece for daylight saving such as has been practiced in several European countries during the last six months, the Hellenic Kingdom has carried out on its own account a reform that has had most salutary effects.

On July 28, 1916, all clocks in the country were set forward 25 to 30 minutes, depending upon the difference between mean local time and astronomically correct time at Athens. This procedure, in addition to effecting a daylight saving of some half hour, has had the result, even more important, of bringing Greece within the zone of eastern European time. With the completion of the junction line that will make possible direct railway communication between Athens and the other capitals of Europe, the time question assumed great importance. It is now thought to be satisfactorily settled. The difference between the longitude of Athens and of Greenwich is 23° 31', 51"; according to the National Observatory at Athens, the actual time difference is 1 hour, 34 minutes, 51 seconds.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donakson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clim, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22-Nov. 1.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany ..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany ..	...do ...	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Wilrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	...do ...	Do.
Weddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.....	...do ...	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul General S. Listoe, Rotterdam, Oct. 2.]

From reports on crop conditions received by the Netherlands Department of Agriculture it appears that the temperature during September was generally below normal, and after the 14th of the month was far below normal. The heavy rains in August caused considerable damage to the crops; quality and quantity have both suffered. The harvesting met with serious difficulties, and in many places the wheat and oats crops were not in at the time the September report was compiled. The late harvesting caused an accumulation of field work, which in its turn led to a shortage of labor. As a result, the soil did not receive the customary attention, which may affect next year's crops to some degree.

Expressed in figures, the condition of the different crops in August and September may be stated as:

Crop.	August.	September.	Crop.	August.	September.
Wheat	62.2	61.5	Peas	62.1	58.6
Oats	71.6	71.2	Potatoes for consumption..	55.0	52.2
Canary seed	77.3	65.8	Potatoes for factory use..	61.9	61.9
Poppy seed	60.0	57.0	Sugar beets	60.8	60.3
Mustard seed	62.9	61.5	Beets for cattle	64.8	66.4
Beans, brown	58.7	51.1	Onions	65.5	60.0

Taking 100 for excellent, 90 for very good, 70 for good, 60 for fairly good, 50 for middling, 40 for rather poor, 30 for poor, and 10 for failure, a normal crop is expressed by 67.

[A detailed review of crop conditions in the Netherlands up to July appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 7, 1916.]

DESIRES MARKET FOR PERUVIAN FLAXSEED.

A Belgian specialist in the flax trade who is now in business at Lima, Peru, expresses the opinion in a statement to Consul General William W. Handley at Callao-Lima, that certain portions of the northern coast lands of Peru are suitable for the raising of large quantities of flax under most favorable conditions. He points to the fact that the development of the plant in that region could be regulated by irrigation. He already has 5 tons of the seed which he offers to purchasers in the United States. If prices are satisfactory he is prepared to produce larger and regular quantities. He suggests that those who are interested should communicate directly with him by cable, stating offer, and price c. i. f. American port, with terms of payment. In the event of a sale, he states that an advance of perhaps 70 to 75 per cent against delivery of documents would be desired, credit being opened by cable.

The flax specialist, in his communication to the consul general, also expresses a desire to receive catalogues from American makers of flax-scutching machinery.

The name of the specialist may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. A sample of the flaxseed may also be inspected at the Bureau or district offices. Refer to file No. 81202.

THE SCOTCH FISHING INDUSTRY.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Oct. 9.]

The report of the Scotch Fishery Board for 1915, just issued, gives the total sea fish of all kinds landed within the year as 2,319,390 hundredweight (of 112 pounds), valued at \$10,265,711). This was a decrease in value of \$5,348,629 as compared with the preceding year and in quantity of 5,120,931 hundredweight. The result was obtained by 4,653 fishing vessels manned by crews numbering 15,244.

Motor Fishing Boats.

A noteworthy development in the fishing industry was an increase in the number of motor boats from 694 in 1914 to 811 last year. Motor engines were installed in the smaller boats—principally 18 to 45 feet keel—engaged in the inshore fisheries. The board says:

The circumstances which prevented any substantial development of the steam fishing fleet did not operate to the same extent in the case of motor boats, and in some respects gave an impetus to the installation of motor power. Substantial as is the increase reported it would doubtless have been much greater but for the difficulty experienced by the makers in supplying and installing engines.

A considerable number of engines are in use in the inshore fishing craft. For several years the motor boat has been gaining favor for inshore work, and it is deemed probable that sailing craft, now numbering 3,571 (two-thirds of these being under 18 feet keel) will be rapidly superseded by motor boats, which have proved much superior to sailing vessels, especially in rough weather. The earnings of motor craft exceed those of sailing vessels by 20 per cent in many fishing grounds and by fully 100 per cent in some sections of the coast waters.

Last year the percentage of the total catch of herrings by each of the three classes of boats was—steam vessels 47 per cent, motor vessels 31 per cent, and sailing vessels 22 per cent.

CHILEAN LOAN FLOATED IN NEW YORK.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, Oct. 14.]

Negotiations have been closed by the Guaranty Trust Co., of New York, to purchase from the Water Co. (or Water Board), of Valparaiso, Chile, \$471,000 6 per cent bonds, redeemable in 1939 or earlier from the operations of an annual sinking fund. The loan is offered here on an average of 6.30 per cent basis. The bonds are unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Republic of Chile. The proceeds will be used to enlarge and further develop the waterworks.

Practically the entire water supply of the city of Valparaiso, population 190,000, is served by the company which issues these bonds. The company is administered by a board of directors consisting of (1) the governor of the province, (2) three citizens of Valparaiso who were appointed to office by the National Government, and (3) another director appointed by the municipality itself.

In 1912 £250,000 $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent bonds of this enterprise were sold in London at 99. The water supply of the city was formerly controlled by the municipality, but may now be said to be a fiscal undertaking of the Government.

INTEREST IN INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 26.]

The new Council of Education in New Zealand is seriously considering the question of a more thorough study of industrial science in this country, and the press of this Dominion is urging closer attention to the scientific handling of business, industry, and commerce.

The Council of Education proposes to arrange the following elective courses for the more advanced pupils in the public schools: (1) A general secondary course, with some degree of option (3-5 years); (2) a vocational course in agriculture (3 years); (3) a vocational course in home science, for girls (3 years); (4) a vocational course in commerce (3 years); (5) a mechanical course covering engineering and kindred branches.

Special Need of Trained Men in Business—Foreign Teachers.

The effect of thorough organization and scientific training has been brought forcibly to the attention of the people of New Zealand during the last two years, and there is a determination to meet the emergency if possible. There is an awakening not only on the part of the leaders of the country but among many of the working classes, and great interest is taken in educational and scientific publications.

In this connection there seems to be fear that there will be a dearth of professors and teachers qualified to provide the necessary instruction in the lines mentioned. It seems that, to some extent at least, instructors will have to be obtained from abroad, and in discussions in the press reference is often made to the work of the scientific and industrial schools in the United States.

INCREASED IMPORTS INTO SOUTH AFRICA.

[Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town, Sept. 14.]

There was a large increase in the value of the imports into the Union of South Africa through the various channels during August, 1916, compared with the same month in 1915, as shown by the following table:

Ports.	1915	1916	Ports.	1915	1916
Cape Town.....	\$2,468,669	\$3,257,932	Lourenco Marques.....	\$1,188,438	1968,537
Port Elizabeth.....	2,326,571	4,809,236	Other ports and stations.	128,885	111,214
East London.....	1,489,993	1,646,089			
Durban.....	4,244,656	7,202,970	Total.....	11,947,022	18,015,978

NEW BRUNSWICK'S WOLFRAM MINE.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 10.]

On Monday of the current week the mill which has been erected near the Miramichi River, Province of New Brunswick, to treat wolfram ore, experimentally mined there for some time past, was formally started, with enough ore in sight to keep the plant busy night and day for 12 months. The promoters of the undertaking announce themselves well satisfied with results as so far achieved.

[An earlier report on wolfram in New Brunswick appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** of Sept. 12, 1916.]

OPENING FOR THRASHING MACHINERY IN MANCHURIA.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, China, Aug. 2.]

A section of the 1915 report of the Chinese Maritime Customs, recently issued, contains the following passage, which may be of interest to American manufacturers of agricultural machinery:

Farmers should contrive better means for threshing, and if only some cheap and suitable machines could be introduced and worked by pony or even donkey power, it is pretty sure they would prove a success. The firm introducing such machines would need to work methodically, giving a few machines free to start with, and sending men to teach their use. Once the right kind were started they would probably sell by the thousand. Labor is dear, and it has been almost impossible of late years to get threshing floors into good condition. In former days, if farmers could send their produce to Newchwang by the time the roads broke up nothing else mattered. In the present day the farmers do not have all the winter to think over things. There is a rush of buyers, and the earlier the grain is on the market the better.

The section to which reference is made in this quotation is central and southern Manchuria. Japanese interests there are very strong, and conditions are not favorable to imports of any classes of American or European goods in which the Japanese are able to compete strongly. In the case of agricultural machinery, however, the circumstances are exceptional, for, aside from the fact that Japan is not a strong competitor in heavy iron and steel products in any case, agricultural machinery is scarcely used at all in Japan itself, and there is consequently little incentive for its manufacture. American exporters who may be interested would do well, however, to look the field over carefully and to communicate with the consuls at Dairen and Mukden.

SWISS WATCH EXPORT TRADE IMPROVES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 7.]

The Swiss watch exports for the first half of 1916, as officially announced, show continued improvement and a return to normal conditions. The figures for the first six months of 1914, 1915, and 1916 follow:

Watches and parts.	1916	1915	1914
Watches:	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Of base metals.....	5,124,581	3,717,728	3,563,235
Of silver.....	1,599,481	1,029,021	1,509,613
Of gold.....	353,335	184,995	455,736
Other.....	259,493	107,687	109,467
Chronographs.....	11,480	5,713	12,334
Movements, finished.....	993,790	532,599	689,256
Part of watches.....	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
	139,135	145,493	198,555

CHESHIRE SALT EXPORTS.

[Consul Horace Lee Washington, Liverpool, England, Oct. 10.]

The foreign shipments of Cheshire salt from the Liverpool district during September, 1916, according to figures compiled by the Salt Union, Limited, were 29,244 tons, as compared with 42,992 tons in September last year, 48,574 tons in 1914, and 34,705 tons in 1913. For the first nine months of 1916 the foreign shipments were 243,615 tons, as compared with 306,080 tons for the corresponding period of last year.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency, commission.....	22822	Hay.....	22824
Apples.....	22820	Holsts, friction-drum.....	22819
Bars, rods, etc.....	22825	Lanterns.....	22818
Beads.....	22818	Lard.....	22815
Buttons, pearl.....	22816	Machinery.....	22826
Canned goods.....	22820	Machinery, electric wire.....	22817
Cigar sundries.....	22827	Meats, cured.....	22815
Corn.....	22824	Novelties.....	22826
Cotton, raw.....	22823	Oats.....	22824
Cottonseed oil.....	22820	Pipes and fittings.....	22825
Dry goods.....	22826	Potatoes.....	22820
Eggs.....	22820	Provisions.....	22815, 22820
Electrical supplies.....	22825	Rice.....	22820
Flannels.....	22818	Sugar.....	22820
Fruits, preserved.....	22815	Vegetables, dried.....	22820
Grain.....	22824	Yarns, cotton.....	22821

22815.*—A business man in Switzerland is desirous of representing American exporters of provisions and food products of all kinds, including cured meats and lard, preserved fruits, etc. References. Correspondence in French.

22816.*—A man in the United Kingdom desires to communicate with manufacturers of dyed fresh water pearl buttons, similar to samples which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81179.) Reference.

22817.†—A manufacturer of wire goods in Spain asks for the names of several manufacturers of machines for making electric wire.

22818.*—A firm of wholesale merchants in East Africa desires catalogues with prices, etc., of medium and cheap grades of beads, flannels, lanterns, etc.

22819.†—An engineer in Russia desires to receive printed matter, prices, etc., on friction-drum holsts.

22820.*—An established firm in Argentina is desirous of representing American exporters of cottonseed oil, sugar, apples, potatoes, eggs, rice, dried vegetables, canned goods, and other provisions. Correspondence in English. References.

22821.†—A firm in India is in the market for 2/30s and 2/40s cotton yarns in blue, black, red, green, and other colors. Samples are desired.

22822.*—A firm in Central America desires to enter into commercial relations with American import and export houses. No particular lines are specified. References. Correspondence in English.

22823.*—A business man in Norway desires to represent American exporters of raw cotton. Correspondence in English. References.

22824.*—A man in the West Indies desires to represent American exporters of hay, oats, corn, etc. References.

22825.*—A firm in Brazil desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers and exporters of electrical supplies, machinery, and installations, metal pipes and fittings, rods, bars, and sheets.

22826.*—A business man in Chile desires to represent American manufacturers of dry goods, novelties, and machinery. Catalogues and price lists desired. Reference. Correspondence in English.

22827.*—A firm of wholesale wine merchants in the Far East, proprietors of a brand of cigars, desires to receive catalogues of cigar sundries.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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FRENCH EXPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Oct. 27.]

A decree of October 26 prohibits export and transit, etc., from today of the following articles: Formic acid; oxalic acid; albumen; matches; amomum and cardamom; benzol and ethyl benzoate; lime borate; silica bricks; brushware; coffee substitutes; cassia lignea; degreas; chicory, roasted or ground; chlorine compounds; carbon chloride; colchicum and its preparations; dextrin; brandies and liqueurs; fertilizers of all kinds; tinctorial extracts; dried figs; fabrics of vegetable fibers; table fruits, fresh, dried, candied, or preserved; game; gluten bread; volatile oils and essences; niace; honey; nutmegs; mats of straw and vegetable fiber; iron or ordinary steel cutting tools; tools and their detached parts, machine parts, and other articles of special steel except tools for clockmakers; paraffin paper; parings of hides; unworked rabbit skins; ornamental wings with feathers on; feathers of poultry; feather and down waste; radium salts; sauces and condiments; products containing turpentine essence; carbon tetrachloride; vanilla; waterproof garments. The decree is subject to the usual exceptions.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS IN VENICE.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, Italy, Oct. 4.]

The Comitato Cittadino di Assistenza e di Difesa Civile in Venice plans the opening of a technical school of arts and handicrafts for boys. This school will be called after "Brandolin Brandolini d'Adda."

All possible information on manual and technical training is desired, and it is requested that such schools in the United States send, care of this consulate, their catalogues and any printed information that would be of value to the projectors of this school, and that it be placed on the permanent mailing lists of such institutions. The opening of such a school may lead to important trade opportunities.

AUSTRALIAN MARKETS FOR AMERICAN HARDWARE.

The Australian demand for high-grade hardware favors the sale of American products of that class, according to a report prepared by Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, and published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The writer lays particular stress upon the size of the hardware market in Australia, in proportion to the population, and upon the fact that it is one of the few markets in the world where hardware other than English and American has never been an important factor.

Mr. Downs states that Japanese rivalry has developed during the present war. In explanation of the present conditions he says:

The exclusion of many makes of European goods from the Australian markets and other eastern countries has stimulated the Japanese to great activity in an endeavor to capture the trade thus thrown open. Whether it will be able to develop its production of tools and general hardware of the cheaper classes to a point that will satisfy the British tastes and requirements of Australia remains to be seen, but it is to be expected that a certain amount of trade will go to Japan. While this new competition may not seriously affect American trade in articles already well introduced, it may tend to limit expansion in the sale of lines of goods not largely exported in the past from the United States.

Articles known as "tools of trade" are purchased in large quantities from America despite a natural preference for British products, and even during normal times American trade in this line showed a tendency to increase. In 1909 American sales of such tools amounted to 40 per cent of the total, while in 1913 the proportion was 45 per cent. In most lines, however, England gets the cream of the business. Close attention to details of the trade and increased activity at this time will accomplish much, the report states.

The report for Australia is the second of a series which is to cover the hardware markets of the whole world. The work is done by hardware experts in each country under the direction of the American commercial attachés. In addition to advice as to credit terms, packing, systems of conducting trade, etc., each line of hardware is taken up and fully discussed. "Australian Markets for American Hardware," Miscellaneous Series No. 42, contains 105 pages, and may be purchased for the nominal sum of 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

FRENCH-AFRICAN CABLE SERVICE.

[Secretary of American Embassy Robert W. Bliss, Paris, Oct. 6.]

The following decree with regard to French submarine cable service in Africa was issued under date of September 16, 1916:

Article 1.—The submarine cable stations at Cape Lopez (Port Gentil) and at Loango (Ponta Nera) (French Equatorial Africa), are connected with the French submarine service of West Africa on and after January 1, 1916, the said service being also charged with assuring the working of the Libreville-Loango cable at Libreville on and after the above date.

Article 2.—The submarine cable station at Duala (Cameroon) is connected with the French submarine cable service of West Africa on and after May 1, 1916.

Article 3.—The Minister of Commerce, of Industry, of Posts and Telegraphs, the Minister of Colonies, and the Minister of Finance are charged, each one as it concerns him, with the execution of the present decree, which will be inserted in the Journal Officiel and the Bulletin des Lois.

SOUTH AFRICA INTERESTED IN SISAL FIBER.

[British and South African Export Gazette.]

Sisal plantations should before long be established all along the coastal belt of South Africa, if Mr. E. F. Rudda's advice were taken. The Germans have already done something with the plant in East Africa, and in a recent year were able to send 5,000 tons to Germany. Machinery for manufacturing the fiber would of course be needed, and although it is simple the special requirements of the leaf and the industry have to be borne in mind by those who may attempt its manufacture.

According to the authority cited it appears that there are three varieties of the plant which might do well in the coastal regions of the Union. The leaves grow, according to the variety, from 5 to 9 feet in length, and the yield of fiber per acre will, it is estimated, vary from 1 to 2 tons. The value of the fiber in the London market has ranged from £26 to £40 (\$126 to \$195) per ton. The plant is hardy and very easily cultivated, but it takes three years to establish a plantation. The first plantation will last from 7 to 9 years, but once it is established, like the Newfoundland spruce, it renews itself. Afterwards the only matter to be dealt with is that of keeping surplus plants down.

Mr. Rudda is known in Australia as an authority on forestry. It is stated that the cost of machinery per 100 acres of plants cultivated would be approximately £80 or £100 (\$400 or \$500).

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22-Nov. 1.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon ..	Dec. 25	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Wilrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	do.....	Do.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	do.....	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

MARSEILLE BUILDING PROJECTS AFTER THE WAR.

[Vice Consul Paul H. Cram, Marseille, France, Sept. 11.]

Various projects, including the creation of direct water communication with the interior of France and an important extension of the port, will give considerable impetus to the building of factories and other industries establishments in the vicinity of Marseille after the war.

About \$8,492,000 is to be spent in the renovation of a certain quarter of the city which, situated between the stock exchange and the post office, forms a quadrangle of 699,660 square feet in the heart of the business section. In this quarter 534 old, antiquated houses, dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, occupied 473,616 square feet, leaving only 226,044 square feet for 36 streets and squares. The new project assigns 397,514 square feet to new streets and squares, and leaves 302,146 square feet for building purposes. Provision is made for the formation of a public square 360 feet by 344 feet in the center of the quarter, together with the erection of a passenger station which will serve as a terminus for most of the street railway lines. Inasmuch as many of the buildings already have been removed, plans for reconstruction will, without doubt, be made shortly after the close of the war.

To Be Occupied by Office Buildings.

It is expected that this section, owing to its proximity to the port, the stock exchange, and the post office, will be mainly occupied by office buildings. The municipality will grant authorizations for the erection of buildings of 28 meters (91.86 feet) in height instead of 24.5 meters (80.38 feet), which is the maximum in other parts of the city. Such buildings, however, must be modern in every respect.

The stock exchange is negotiating with the municipality for the purchase of the lot immediately in the rear of the present exchange building, where it proposes to build an annex. It has been suggested that the large lot situated between the proposed square and the post office be sold to a single tenant for the construction of a large business block.

The Rhone Canal, which will be open to navigation within a few years, will connect this port with the Rhone River. The first section of the canal places Marseille in direct communication with the Etang de Berre, a small lake. The second section connects the Etang de Berre with Port de Bouc, a small seaport town. From this point the canal proceeds in a northerly direction and joins the Rhone River at Arles.

When the canal is completed barges of 600 tons will be able to penetrate for a distance of 540 kilometers (335.5 miles) into the interior of France. Barges of lesser tonnage may continue northward to Paris, Havre, and the British Channel. The possibilities of considerable construction work in the vicinity of the Etang de Berre, as a result of the opening of the Marseille-Rhone Canal a few years hence, has been noted in a report from Consul General Gaulin [published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 2, 1916].

Will Create Large Demand for Hardware and Equipment Materials.

The expected building activity will create a large demand for hardware, sanitary goods, metal ceilings, and appliances and

specialties required in the construction and furnishing of various structures. Much machinery will also be needed for new factories.

On account of the abundant local supply and cheapness of brick and excellent building stone, structural steel is used to a much lesser degree here than in the United States. The demand after the war may be considerably larger, if American manufacturers will supply steel sections of the same weight and dimensions as are commonly used in France. Local architects, accustomed to base their calculations on these standards, are hesitant in regard to changes. Window grilles and balcony railings are used to a much greater extent than in the United States. The design of these goods, which should receive careful attention, is an important element of success. The hardware used in the construction of windows should be such as may be adapted to door windows, which are universal in this region.

The erection of office buildings in the new stock-exchange quarter will afford opportunities for the sale of American office furniture, which has an excellent reputation in this city. The height and size of these buildings will create a demand for elevators, house telephones, and other specialties.

[Lists of architects and contractors at Marseille may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. A plan showing the section of the city to be reconstructed, as it appeared until recently, and also the reconstruction scheme, may be inspected at the same offices. Refer in either case to file No. 80604.]

FRESH AND DRIED FRUIT IN SILESIA.

[Vice Consul Ernest L. Ives, Breslau, Silesia, Germany, Sept. 11.]

In the western, middle, and southern parts of Germany favorable conditions exist for the growing of apples, cherries, pears, plums, apricots, peaches, and nuts. Even almonds ripen, especially along the banks of the rivers. In Silesia, however, this branch of agriculture is rather neglected in favor of grain, potatoes, and sugar beets.

The following table shows the total area and the amount of land cultivated with fruits as compared with other crops in the Kingdom of Prussia and in the Province of Silesia, and percentage for Silesia with regard to Prussia, according to the census of December 1, 1913:

	Kingdom of Prussia.	Province of Silesia.	Per- cent- age of total.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	
Total area	86,257,646	9,967,305	11.56
Orchards	38,130	1,247	3.27
Wheat	2,948,332	537,978	18.26
Rye	12,481,786	1,604,070	12.07
Potatoes	5,900,783	856,785	14.51
Sugar beets	1,171,734	221,664	19.03
Turnips	833,594	111,263	13.38

Extent of Fruit Culture in the Province.

It appears from the above table that the area of Silesia is 11.56 per cent of the whole Kingdom of Prussia, and that of the total Prussian fruit-tree acreage Silesia has but 3.27 per cent. Of the 1,247 acres in orchards in Silesia, 561 acres are in Lower Silesia, 427 in

Middle Silesia, and 259 acres in Upper Silesia. Upper Silesia has very poor fruit, but there are some districts in Middle and Lower Silesia, especially along the banks of the Oder River, where good fruit is produced. Plums, sour and sweet cherries, apples, and pears are cultivated in fields and house gardens.

Many communities are planting fruit trees along the highways and canals; these trees are rented out at auction to gatherers, and the revenue from this source is shown on the balance sheets of the respective communities. [Earlier reports on Germany's roadside fruit trees appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Mar. 12, 1912.]

The harvested fruits are sold on the market, chiefly for local consumption; small portions only are purchased by the preserving factories, distilleries, and the producers of cider. Recently efforts have been made to promote fruit culture in Silesia. The Royal Institute for Fruit and Garden Culture at Proskau, Upper Silesia, sends out traveling teachers and gardeners and is doing all it can to improve the methods of cultivation.

The following table shows the number of house gardens, orchards, and roads and canals with fruit trees, and the number of apple, pear, plum, cherry, apricot, peach, and walnut trees in Silesia as compared with the Province of Saxony, the Rhine Province, and the remaining divisions of the Kingdom of Prussia, according to the census of December 1, 1913:

	Province of Silesia.	Province of Saxony.	Rhine Province.	Other districts of Prussia.
House gardens with fruit trees.....	362,830	280,539	462,864	1,736,508
Orchards.....	14,101	44,305	185,746	240,842
Roads and canals with fruit trees.....	12,673	13,213	5,812	36,574
Kinds of trees:				
Apple.....	3,950,139	5,006,681	7,123,620	24,118,818
Pear.....	2,229,742	1,941,765	2,757,571	8,907,661
Plum and prune.....	4,906,250	6,645,921	3,628,520	20,117,739
Cherry.....	2,067,227	2,411,229	1,052,636	8,398,620
Apricot.....	22,721	115,988	84,669	178,276
Peach.....	117,037	92,144	351,382	495,595
Walnut.....	168,423	84,304	184,605	454,697
Total.....	13,542,599	16,300,032	15,182,994	62,671,057

Import Trade in Fresh and Dried Fruit.

Among the countries which in normal times ship fresh fruit to Germany the United States leads with regard to apples. These apples are imported in barrels and sold to Hamburg wholesalers and resold by them at auction to the inland dealers and transported by rail or water to all districts of Germany. (As a rule, Silesian and Breslau dealers in fresh fruit have no direct connection with American exporters.) Lately, however, large quantities of fresh apples have been imported from Austria-Hungary. Further, at the present time every effort is being made in Germany to render the country independent of foreign supplies by planting fruit trees on a large scale, and it is thought that in case imports are cut off for some time foreign growers will meet considerable difficulty in recapturing the German trade.

In the importation of dried fruit Breslau ranks next after Hamburg so far as the American product is concerned. American evap-

orated apples and sun-dried and kiln-dried pears, apricots, and peaches are shipped to Breslau and are preferred to similar fruit from other countries on account of their keeping qualities. With regard to dried plums imported from the United States, it is stated that they have to face competition from plums of European origin. In the past preference has been given to plums from Bosnia, Serbia, Bohemia, and the southern Balkan countries, because they were sold at lower prices. The well-known "Santa Clara" plum therefore found severe competition on the Silesian market. Although the "Santa Clara" was better in appearance and possessed superior keeping qualities, experts preferred European plums on account of the finer aroma. Evaporated apples from the United States are very much in favor here, though it is claimed that apples from Canada and Australia were brought to the market and competed with those from the United States.

While American methods of packing dried fruit are found satisfactory in the main, the evaporated plums, pears, apricots, and peaches coming in boxes containing $12\frac{1}{2}$ kilos (27.56 pounds) net, some importers complain that evaporated apples are packed in boxes of 50 pounds and state that it would be more convenient if in the future the metric weights were adopted for the apples also.

Too Early Offers—Suggested Trade Changes.

Breslau importers complain that American firms make their offers for evaporated apples in January and February, at a time when no estimate of the year's harvest is possible, and they suggest that offers be made when a reliable view of the expected crop can be obtained in the countries of origin. By the early offers, it is claimed, German importers have often sustained considerable loss, especially when the harvest was poorer than expected, and prices increased so that the American exporters were unable to cover the difference between the market price and contracted selling price and could not fill the orders.

Some important Breslau fruit merchants have suggested that the following changes be made: (1) The content of sulphur should not exceed the limit fixed by the German pure-food laws; (2) evaporated apples should be packed in boxes containing $12\frac{1}{2}$ or 25 kilos (27.56 or 55.12 pounds) net instead of 50 pounds; (3) terms should be made a little more lenient, to offset the advantage European competitors have in their proximity to the German market; (4) offers should not be made before a fairly accurate estimate of the harvest is obtained.

[The German market for imported fruit was reviewed in Dally Consular and Trade Reports for Mar. 19, 1913, and Mar. 20 and 30, 1914.]

Increased Exports From Moncton to the United States.

Consul E. Verne Richardson, at Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, reports that during the first nine months of 1916 the value of the exports to the United States from the Moncton consular district, not including the Newcastle agency, showed substantial increases over the corresponding period of last year. The total for the 1915 period was \$536,229 and for the 1916 period \$674,968, or a gain of \$138,739. The number of invoices certified at the Moncton consulate for the nine months was 336 in 1915 and 604 in 1916.

BRITISH POTTERY TRADE RETURNS.

[Consul Robert S. S. Bergh, Stoke-on-Trent, Oct. 12.]

Exports of pottery from the United Kingdom for the month of September were valued at \$1,275,699, a material increase when compared with the values for the corresponding months of 1915 and 1914, \$818,915 and \$742,389, respectively.

For the nine months ended September 30, 1916, the total value of the exports of these wares, \$9,473,800, was \$7,405,260 in excess of that for the corresponding period of 1915, but less than that for the corresponding period in 1914, when the total was \$10,233,782.

The following table shows the destination of the exports for the month of September and the first nine months of 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Countries.	September—			Nine months ended Sept. 30—		
	1914	1915	1916	1914	1915	1916
Argentina.....	\$74,843	\$180,862	\$97,535	\$1,024,128	\$865,415	\$637,551
Australia.....	122,864	139,967	138,943	1,182,433	1,126,527	1,051,242
Brazil.....	30,348	34,129	81,110	573,853	248,923	564,081
British East Indies.....	78,526	75,805	99,520	903,456	580,544	785,764
British South Africa.....	38,236	45,487	117,925	423,400	389,430	686,323
Canada.....	80,915	80,589	169,724	1,263,202	901,604	1,194,828
France.....	229	20,065	34,537	307,714	81,056	226,056
Germany.....				183,002		
New Zealand.....	45,813	49,911	109,878	400,187	328,532	580,366
United States.....	157,859	122,188	169,393	1,571,057	1,430,508	1,425,865
All other countries.....	112,757	149,982	266,144	2,396,352	1,382,631	2,022,693
Total.....	742,389	818,915	1,275,699	10,233,782	7,405,260	9,473,800

The value of imports for September was \$41,234, against \$80,122 in September, 1915, and \$53,405 in September, 1914.

The value of imports for the nine months was \$620,007, against \$650,320 in the corresponding period of last year and \$3,536,544 in 1914.

MOTION-PICTURE TRADE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

[Vice Consul Paul H. Cram, Marseille, Sept. 21.]

Marseille has about 50 motion-picture theaters, most of which are small. The larger establishments have seating capacities of 800 to 1,100 persons each. The entrance fees in equivalent American currency vary from 2.8 cents to 23 cents, the average being about 5.7 cents. The present volume of business is as large if not larger than that of 1912 and 1913.

Large Paris Firms Maintain Agencies.

The trade in motion-picture machines and supplies is largely in the hands of large Paris firms, which have established agencies throughout the provinces. Producers frequently exhibit their films in the Paris offices, which purchase, usually on a cash basis, the greater part of the production. These films are then exhibited to representatives of the theaters. In this city the larger establishments, which usually change their programs weekly, rent films which have not been locally exhibited. The price per meter (3.28 feet) for such films may vary from 0.2 franc (\$0.038) to 2 francs

(\$0.386) per week, the average being about 0.4 franc (\$0.077). These films are then rented to small theaters, which generally change their programs twice a week. In such cases, the price per meter (3.28 feet) for three or four days' exhibition varies from 0.05 franc (\$0.0096) to 0.08 franc (\$0.0154).

Prior to the war the weekly production in France of new films was estimated at 25,000 meters (82,020 feet) to 30,000 meters (98,425 feet), while at present probably it does not exceed one-third of that amount. In consequence French firms are importing films in larger quantities, particularly from Italy and the United States. There is a large and growing demand for American films in comic, sentimental, and detective subjects. Those representing cowboy or frontier life are less popular than formerly.

Two firms in Paris manufacture the greater proportion of the French motion-picture machines and supplies sold in this region. Shortly after the commencement of the war prices rose 25 per cent, and at present they are at least 40 per cent above the prices ruling early in 1914.

Extension of American Trade.

American firms should either send a competent agent to Paris, with power to appoint subagents in the provinces, or grant concessionary rights to large French concerns. The latter method has already been used with considerable success in exploiting American films. If it is a question of selling not only American films but also machines and supplies, together with the purchase of French films, the former method, perhaps, would be preferable. Films should be packed in tin boxes. Explanatory texts should be in French. The French customs duties on machines and films are as follows, per 100 kilos (220 pounds) net weight:

Articles.	General tariff.	Minimum tariff.
Films:		
Exposed	165 francs (\$31.84).....	110 francs (\$21.23).
Unexposed	300 francs (\$57.60).....	200 francs (\$38.60).
Machines	150 francs (\$28.85).....	100 francs (\$19.30).

American films and machines are subject to the general tariff.

[Names and addresses of motion-picture theaters, trade periodicals, and dealers in films and supplies may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81274.]

TRADE EXTENSION IN RUSSIA.

[Consul Douglas Jenkins, Riga, Sept. 20.]

As a result of the efforts of this consulate a Riga merchant, who has a branch in Petrograd, has placed a small order for embroidery and crochet cottons with an American exporter. Only the present difficulties of transportation prevented the placing of a larger order.

Another Riga merchant who deals in printing paper is endeavoring to arrange with a New York exporter for a large shipment of paper. If transportation arrangements can be made, the order will be placed. This is also a result of the efforts of this consulate in trade-extension work.

SOUTH AFRICA'S PROJECTS AFTER THE WAR.

[British and South African Export Gazette.]

After the war South African orders for machinery and electrical appliances of all kinds are likely to assume vast proportions. The Rand is a continuous buyer of mining plant of every description, and there is no doubt that in the near future the new gold areas of the far eastern Rand will be clamoring for equipment. The orders for the far eastern Rand alone will probably astonish our own makers of mining machinery.

There is also the great barrage scheme of the Rand Water Board, which proposes to dam the Vaal River at a point about 25 miles below Vereeniging. The cost is at present estimated at £750,000 (\$3,650,000), but it is probable that a scheme designed ultimately to impound 20,000,000 gallons of water and to pump 10,000,000 gallons to the Rand will involve a much larger expenditure. However as a commencement £750,000 is to be laid out, and much of this sum will be converted into the form of piping, machinery, and metal material of all kinds.

Port Elizabeth has decided to expend £300,000 (\$1,460,000) on a new sewerage scheme. New factories intended to fill many and diverse requirements are likely to spring up everywhere in South Africa. Capital of £500,000 has been subscribed for the purpose of establishing a glass-making industry. The paper shortage has brought together newspaper proprietors and printers, who are feeling their way toward the founding of paper-making works. Natal is starting new boot and leather-goods factories. Out of the war has grown a great movement in South Africa directed toward making the country less dependent than she is at present on over-sea manufacturers for certain goods and appliances of which she has continuous need.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLOR PRINTS ON SILK.

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

A method of printing silk fabrics by color photography, due to Messrs. Valette et Férét, of the Manufacture Nationale des Gobelins, presents results which appear to be interesting in the sense that the process makes possible the production on silk fabrics of decorative effects the perfection of which does not seem to have been hitherto attained by printing.

The method is of course borrowed from color photography, and consists in making three successive impressions—blue, yellow, and red—from three selected photographic prepared plates. The fabric is rendered sensitive by the aid of mixtures of alkaline phenols and diazo sulphites, products which possess the property of giving coloring matters only through the influence of light. The precision needed in superposing the three impressions is secured by carrying out the work on a special frame, the fabric having been previously provided with metallic eyelets to avoid tearing it.

The development of the colors is accomplished with better regularity by exposure to electric light. The method is recommended by its authors as more especially applicable in the treating of articles de luxe of the sort that can not well be printed by machine.

SHIPPING FACILITIES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND HONDURAS.

[Consular Agent George A. Makinson, Amapala.]

The New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Co. (Ward Line), of New York, which recently announced the inauguration of a direct line of freight and passenger steamers between New York and the principal ports on the Pacific coast of Central America, will improve shipping conditions on the southern coast of Honduras. Messrs. Teodoro Koehncke & Co., of Amapala, have been appointed agents for Honduras.

Heretofore the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., of San Francisco, has been the only line making Amapala a regular port of call. As these boats are not operated beyond the Panama Canal Zone all merchandise coming from or destined for the south coast of Honduras has been subject to transshipment at Colon and frequently to considerable delay before the arrival of the vessels of the connecting line. Sometimes it happens that several cargoes are landed here almost simultaneously, and then there is a lull of 6 or 7 weeks before another call is made.

Breakage due to unloading and reloading at Colon and frequent pilfering of freight while stored on the Isthmus have been reported in the past. Amapala forwarding firms anticipate a considerable saving in time and reduction in breakage as a result of the installation of the new direct line.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 19.]

The Government authorities have aroused interest among potato growers in diseases affecting their crops. The disease of black leg, despite the work done for its prevention, damaged the potato crop in the Maritime Provinces to an extent estimated at \$695,225, or \$6.65 per acre, with an average yield of 133 bushels to the acre.

Allotments to the various Provinces for agricultural instruction have been made for the year ending March 31, 1917. Under an act of the Dominion Parliament, \$10,000,000 is being spent throughout a period of 10 years for the encouragement of agricultural education and domestic science. The amounts are allotted according to population, and New Brunswick this year receives \$59,209. The money is used to direct the building of schools, for the payment of special teachers, circulation of literature, promotion of veterinary science, etc.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 409 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 849 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Vice Consul Chas. H. Helsler, Cape Town, Sept. 19.]

A practical demonstration of plowing by modern methods was recently given in the rich farming district of Caledon, Cape Province, by the representatives of a New York distributing firm. A "Bull" tractor, manufactured in America, pulling two plows, was shown to advantage before a large gathering of farmers, the demonstration being confined principally to the breaking of virgin ground and the plowing of soil that had been lying fallow for three years. Unique exhibitions were given showing the advantages of tractor use and improvements in construction over types utilized several years ago. Many distinctive features of the new tractor greatly interested those present, and, at the request of several agricultural men, similar demonstrations are to be held on privately owned farms in the same district. A demonstration has also been arranged for the Government Agricultural Department and is shortly to take place on the Government farm.

The tractor exhibited at Caledon, the first "Bull" tractor to be shown in South Africa, was sold on the day of the demonstration. Several more of these tractors are, however, on their way to this country for demonstration purposes in the eastern section of the Cape Province, Natal, and the Transvaal.

Comments on the New Tractor.

Many farmers have expressed the belief that the lighter weight of the new agricultural tractor, higher horsepower, and lower selling price in comparison with similar machines now found on this market, will place it in strong competition with other tractors.

One excellent feature in the extension of American trade in this particular case is the sending of an expert from the United States to demonstrate and explain the merits of such an agricultural tractor. Moreover, the American representative, who proceeded the tractor to this country, has established a local agency with a well-known Cape Town firm, and salesmen proficient in the Dutch language accompany the tractor through Dutch-speaking communities.

GOLD MINING IN THE AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Sept. 25.]

Since gold was discovered in the Auckland Province in 1852 there has been exported from this district gold to the value of \$116,796,000, and the prospect for the future seems good. Great progress has been made since the introduction of the cyanide process in 1906, when it became possible to work the lower grade ores and tailings at a profit.

There are some important mines or leads in this section, the leading one being the Waihi mine, from which bullion to the value of \$55,140,151 has been taken. Of this amount, \$23,626,405 has been paid in dividends. The Waihi Grand Junction mine has produced gold to the value of \$6,565,697, and may be said to be only beginning its career as a bullion producer. The Talisman mine, near Karangahake, has produced gold valued at \$12,632,908, from which dividends have been paid to the value of \$5,097,518. Some of these mines have gone to the depth of 2,000 feet.

CONFERENCE ON FIRE TESTS OF WALLS AND PARTITIONS.

A conference has been held at the United States Bureau of Standards by representatives of various technical associations for the purpose of drawing up a comprehensive program of fire tests for building walls and partitions. Those who participated gave their attention to metal-lath-and-plaster, stucco, gypsum, hollow-tile, brick, and concrete partitions and walls.

Many important details governing these tests were considered, such as types and dimensions of partitions to be tested, the temperatures to which the partitions are to be exposed, the time of exposure to fire, the water test to which the heated partitions should be subjected, etc.

Participating in the conference were representatives of the American Institute of Architects, the American Society for Testing Materials, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the Associated Metal Lath Manufacturers, the Gypsum Industries Association, the National Brick Manufacturers Association, the Association of American Portland Cement Manufacturers, and the Fire Underwriters' Laboratories. Other associations represented on the advisory committee for these tests are: The American Concrete Institute, the National Fire Protection Association, and the National Lime Manufacturers Association.

The fire tests outlined by the committee in cooperation with the representatives of the Bureau of Standards are to be carried out with the panel furnace recently installed by the bureau. It is the largest and most complete plant for such work ever built. It is confidently believed by the committee that these fire tests will have an important bearing on all fire-resistive building construction.

SCARCITY OF SUGAR IN SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Philip Holland, Basel, Oct. 6.]

Since September 1, 1916, sugar has been sold by the local dealers to the consumers in quantities not exceeding 1 pound. Owing to the scarcity of this product very little comfiture has been made for the winter consumption. As the continental breakfast consists of jams, bread, butter, and coffee, the effects from the shortage of sugar are already being felt. Relief, however, is expected soon.

The Swiss Government has purchased through Netherlands agents 37,000 metric tons of Java sugar and has chartered ships to bring it from Java to Rotterdam. It is invoiced to the Swiss Society of Surveillance, but is distributed through Basel agents. The quantities are checked through English control upon leaving the Netherlands and upon arriving in Basel.

Up to October 1 about 1,000 tons had arrived. It is expected that about 2,000 tons weekly will arrive until the total amount is received.

Nearly 1,000 points in North Carolina have been marked by metal tablets or iron posts, whose heights have been accurately determined by Government surveyors. These points are described and their altitudes or elevations given in Bulletin 646, just issued by the United States Geological Survey. Copies may be obtained free from the Survey at Washington, D. C.

COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL CREDIT IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Oct. 19.]

Under date of October 17, 1916, the governor of Bermuda appointed a commission to inquire into the practicability of devising a system under which farmers might obtain loans for agricultural operations. Specifically the duties of the commission as outlined are to inquire into the following matters and report thereon as early as practicable:

1. The present economic position of the agricultural industry and the farmers.
2. The manner in which farmers now obtain credit or advances for carrying on farm operations.
3. The method in which the crops are marketed and the channels through which they are distributed to the consumer.
4. The practicability of devising a credit system under which advances may be obtained by farmers on reasonable terms.
5. The advantages to be gained by the general application of the principle of cooperation to the industry and the method of effecting such an organization.

WEATHER BUREAU SERVICE IN THE CARIBBEAN.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Oct. 6.]

A representative of the United States Weather Bureau is now in Colon preparing to extend the work of the bureau in the Caribbean. New stations will be established at Belize, British Honduras; Bluefields, Nicaragua; Swan Island; Santa Marta, Colombia; St. Lucia Island; Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic; Island of Navassa, west of Haiti; Guantanamo, Cuba; and on one of the Danish West Indies. At the stations already established on the islands of Barbados, Trinidad, and Curacao the work of the observers will be extended and improved. Daily reports are made to the Weather Bureau in Washington, and at some places reports may be made twice daily.

CANADIAN DOLLAR TO BE QUOTED ON PARIS EXCHANGE.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick.]

The General Commissioner for Canada in Paris reports that, following representations made by him on behalf of Canadian exporters and of representatives of Canadian corporations now in France, the Minister of Finance of France and the Brokers Syndicate of the Paris Stock Exchange agreed that beginning on September 13, 1916, the Canadian dollar was to be quoted on the exchange branch of the Paris Exchange. The Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce considers this action will interest exporters in view of the frequent wide fluctuations that have occurred on the exchange markets.

Canadian Railway Earnings.

Consul José de Olivares, at Hamilton, Ontario, reports that the gross earnings of Canada's three great railway companies, namely, the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian Northern, and the Grand Trunk systems, for the nine months ended September, 1916, amounted to \$168,518,811, as compared with \$121,062,412 for the corresponding period in 1915, and \$138,153,001 for the same months in 1914.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Tree planting, No. 3743.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal buildings in the States of Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana, in accordance with specifications, copies of which may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Dredging, No. 3744.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, room 707, Army Building, 39 Whitehall Street, New York, N. Y., until November 28, 1916, for dredging in Newtown Creek, N. Y. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Canal construction, No. 3745.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, St. Ignatius, Mont., until November 28, 1916, for the construction of a canal on the Flathead project, Montana. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Locomotive crane, No. 3746.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1916, for a locomotive jib crane of 50 gross tons capacity at the naval station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Tree planting, No. 3747.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 18, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal buildings in the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Virginia, in accordance with specifications, copies of which may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3748.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 7, 1916, for the construction of the post office and courthouse at Chadron, Nebr. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Chadron, Nebr., or at the above-named office.

Buoys, No. 3749.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Portland, Me., until November 15, 1916, for 125 spruce spar buoys and 67 granite mooring stones. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Medical books, No. 3750.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 4, 1916, for 88 copies of the "Animal Parasites of Man." Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3751.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Washington, D. C., until December 22, 1916, for the extension and remodeling (including mechanical equipment and approaches) of the post office and courthouse at East St. Louis, Ill. Drawings and specifications may be obtained after November 10, 1916, from the custodian at East St. Louis, Ill., or at the above-named office.

Wood-block paving, No. 3752.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for wood-block paving at the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Sale of unserviceable property, No. 3753.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., for the sale of approximately 32,000 empty five-gallon tin cans in wooden cases. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Flour, No. 3754.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the quartermaster, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until October 31, 1916, for furnishing and delivering, on or before November 13, 1916, flour for Forts Leavenworth and Riley, Kans., and for Fort Reno, Okla. Specifications may be had on application to above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural implements	22833	Office supplies	22832
Aprons	22836	Paper, wall	22829
Casein, analysis	22830	Pharmaceutical specialties	22838
Drugs	22881; 22838	Preserves	22831
Fruits	22831	Sizing materials	22830
Furniture, office	22832	Sugar refiners	22828
General merchandise	22839	Starch, corn	22830
Machinery	22833	Toilet articles	22831
Machinery, label embossing	22837	Tubes for dental cream	22835
Machinery, sausage	22834	Vegetables, canned	22831
Meat grinders, etc.	22834	Zinc	22830

- 22828.†—A firm in Cuba asks the Bureau to supply it with the names and addresses of sugar refiners and exporters.
- 22829.*—A man in a foreign colonial possession wishes to represent an American manufacturer of a cheap grade of wall paper. Initial requirements, 10,000 rolls. References. Correspondence in English.
- 22830.*—A firm in the Far East desires to be placed in touch with American firms in regard to analysis of casein; also with firms manufacturing cornstarch and zinc used as cotton cloth sizing ingredient.
- 22831.*—A firm of import and export commission merchants in Spain is in the market for all kinds of canned vegetables, fruits, preserves, as well as toilet articles and drugs. Correspondence in English. References.
- 22832.†—A firm in Russia is interested in securing price lists and catalogues and in making connections with American firms handling office equipment and office furniture.
- 22833.*—An established firm in the Far East desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of machinery, principally agricultural machinery. A circular letter from the firm may be seen at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81244.)
- 22834.*—An American consular officer in Brazil desires to receive catalogues, with price lists, etc., of large size hand meat grinders of the cogwheel type, and stuffers having a capacity of from 10 to 16 pounds.
- 22835.†—A commission broker in Porto Rico wishes to secure the names and addresses of several manufacturers of collapsible tubes for putting up dental cream, etc.
- 22836.†—A wholesale merchant in Norway desires quotations on aprons of all styles in white and printed gingham, etc. Samples.
- 22837.†—A company in the United Kingdom desires to communicate with the manufacturers of machines for embossing labels. Samples of labels may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 161.)
- 22838.†—A business man in France desires to represent American manufacturers of drugs and pharmaceutical specialties. References. Correspondence may be in English.
- 22839.†—The representative of a Norwegian firm has opened an office in the United States for the purpose of purchasing all kinds of goods for introduction into Norway.

MANUFACTURE OF VACCINE VIRUS IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 7.]

Because of the increased prices asked by foreign biological laboratories for vaccine virus the Oficina de Sanidad Nacional determined to manufacture it in the Government laboratories in Caracas. Working through August and September 2,109 vials were produced, this being a quantity sufficient to effect 31,635 vaccinations.

NOV 15 1916

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 256 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 31 1916

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FRENCH IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Oct. 28.]

A decree of October 25, published to-day, orders that all declarations for import and export shipments from December 1 must give value of merchandise at place and time of passing the French customs in order to permit the compilation of accurate statistics.

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION BUILDING PROJECT IN PEKING.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of Commercial Attaché, Peking, China, Sept. 15.]

An announcement has just been made by the representative of the Rockefeller Foundation in this city with regard to an extensive building program that institution has in prospect. Some time ago the foundation took over the previously established Union Medical College of Peking and the hospital operated in connection with it. It is now proposed to build a complete new plant for these institutions, the plans calling for buildings for the college to accommodate a maximum of 50 students and for the hospital to provide for a present maximum of 200 beds, with possibilities of later expansion. The hospital is intended primarily to provide clinical facilities for the college, and it is expected to be patronized mainly by the poorer classes.

The expenditure that this project will involve is not officially stated, but it is understood that it may run over \$1,000,000. The announcement is not only of interest in connection with the great benefit that will accrue to the cause of medical education in China, and with the increase that will result in American prestige in this part of the country, but from a more strictly commercial point of view because of the expenditure that will ultimately be necessary for materials and supplies.

So far the place has only been looked over by an architect. The appointment of regular architects will follow shortly.

PIANOS MANUFACTURED IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 26.]

The firm of Messrs. E. Bishop & Sons, of Newmarket, Auckland, has opened a piano factory with a capacity of six pianos a week, and if the demand warrants it is in a position to increase this output.

The first instrument manufactured by this company was used at a concert in the town hall with the best of results. It was an overstrung iron grand piano with a case of mission design made of fumed oak. The action is the only part of these pianos that is imported and comes from Canada. Mechanics have been secured from England, and it is proposed to turn out excellent work.

It would seem that here might be an opening for American manufactures of piano parts and even of knockdown piano cases that might be put together and finished here.

Action work, keys, and metal frames for making pianos, etc., organ pipes, and stop knobs are classified under item No. 326 of the New Zealand tariff and enter free of duty from all countries, with the exception of the war tax of 1 per cent, which is collected on all imports.

DEVELOPMENT IN USE OF ROENTGEN RAYS.

[Consul General Albert Halstead, Vienna, Austria, Oct. 4.]

Prof. Guido Holzknacht announces that a method for removing foreign substances from the human body with the direct aid of Roentgen rays has been devised. The method is described in Vienna papers, which state that at the last meeting of the Medical Society of Vienna, Prof. Holzknacht demonstrated the process by means of stereopticon pictures. He explained the primitive beginnings of the attempts at removing foreign bodies by such means, stating that many years ago the complaint was first heard that in the removal of needles, steel splinters, etc., the exact location of the particles could not be determined in spite of their general localization by means of the X-ray pictures. It was almost imperative, he said, to find some method of shortening the operation and of leading the surgeon to the exact location of the foreign body by the shortest possible route, without destroying more tissue than was absolutely necessary, or incurring unnecessary danger of infection.

Machine Said to Overcome Previous Difficulties.

Dr. Holzknacht is quoted in the press as giving the details of the method that has been devised for accomplishing the desired improvement. He said that the problem could not be solved until more perfect machines had been produced. It had now been possible to construct an X-ray machine which overcame all difficulties, and this machine had been set up in the clinic of Prof. Eiselsberg. The explanation given is as follows:

The new method permits the surgeon to see the field of the operation with one eye, under ordinary conditions, while the other eye sees the same field under Roentgen-ray illumination. This method of double vision is made possible by the so-called "Grashey monocle," constructed by Dr. Grashey. The Roentgen machine itself is situated below the floor, in a room under the operating room, if necessary in a cellar, and is connected by means of a speaking tube with the operating room. The surgeon is enabled to see on the picture in the Roentgen machine how far his probe is removed from the object.

Prof. Eiselsberg spoke of practical experience with the machine. He said there were undoubtedly many cases in which foreign bodies could be removed without the new apparatus, but the new method enabled the surgeon continually to keep the body sought in the field of vision while conducting the operation himself. The result was less manipulation of the probe and the finding of foreign bodies which formerly could not be located.

Statement of Effect of New Method.

Dr. Holz knecht, in speaking of his method, said :

The removal of foreign bodies, even with the aid of X rays, often has met with great difficulties. The surgeon, although he sees the object in the Roentgen picture, has difficulty in finding it in the actual operation. To examine this problem, the course of an ordinary operation of this kind was followed by means of a small chrystoscope without disturbing the operation in itself.

It was of the greatest interest to see the number of movements of instruments, and the destruction of tissues necessary in the course of the usual operation, before the foreign body could be definitely located. It was shown, therefore, to be necessary for a method to be devised by means of which the relation of the foreign body to the instruments of the surgeon could be ascertained at all times and the position of the foreign body always kept in the field of vision. It was found that the change in tension of the tissues, occasioned by the incision, caused the foreign body to move even while the operation was in progress. The new method makes it impossible for the surgeon at any time to lose sight of his object.

AMERICAN LOAN FOR SÃO PAULO.

Arrangements have been made for a loan of \$5,500,000 to the city of São Paulo, Brazil, by the Equitable Trust Co. and William Morris Imbrie & Co., of New York City. The proceeds are to be utilized in the completion of the South American city.

The loan will be at 6 per cent, with principal and interest payable in United States gold coin at New York City. The interest is payable semiannually on January 1 and July 1, and the bonds will mature in 10 annual installments from January 1, 1919, to January 1, 1928.

The service of the loan is a charge against all the revenues of the city, subject only to an annual charge of £53,000 (\$258,000) for the service of the loan made in 1908 by the London and Brazilian Bank. There is specific provision for a first lien on the sanitary taxes and a second lien, subject to the £53,000 mentioned, on the taxes from professions and industries.

It is announced that the loan will be offered for subscription at an early date.

BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITION ON HARDWARE.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 28.]

The import restrictions applicable to hardware apply to all articles of base metal not being structural metal (such as plates, bars, angles) or articles of special character, such as complex machines and scientific instruments.

[According to the former regulations, the prohibition of the importation of hardware was applicable only to articles listed in the British railway classification of hardware, a copy of which is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

FOREIGN TRADE OF RUSSIA IN 1915.

[Compiled in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from Russian official statistics.]

The following table shows the imports and exports of Russia for the last five years over the Asiatic, Caucasus-Black Sea, and European frontiers, and the trade with Finland. Because of the fluctuations in the exchange value of the Russian ruble, the amounts are stated in the original currency; the ruble is now quoted at about \$0.31.

Imports and exports.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
IMPORTS.					
	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
Asiatic frontier.....	139,000,000	135,100,000	153,500,000	153,900,000	439,800,000
Caucasus-Black Sea frontier.....	20,338,000	21,596,000	18,259,000	22,403,000	1,355,000
European frontier.....	960,271,000	969,917,000	1,146,193,000	854,341,000	429,087,000
From Finland.....	a 42,055,000	a 45,172,000	a 56,023,000	a 62,354,000	a 243,696,000
Total imports.....	1,161,664,000	1,171,785,000	1,373,975,000	1,097,998,000	1,113,938,000
EXPORTS.					
Asiatic frontier.....	77,400,000	90,500,000	99,200,000	90,000,000	83,300,000
Caucasus-Black Sea frontier.....	119,766,000	110,636,000	132,915,000	104,290,000	.....
European frontier.....	1,340,580,000	1,267,779,000	1,232,780,000	708,084,000	181,258,000
To Finland.....	53,668,000	40,622,000	55,234,000	55,730,000	132,630,000
Total exports.....	1,591,414,000	1,518,837,000	1,520,149,000	956,104,000	397,188,000

a Including transit trade.

Trade of European Russia for Six Years.

The following table gives the figures for the foreign trade of Russia over the European and Caucasus-Black Sea frontiers, and with Finland, during the last six years:

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Years.	Imports.	Exports.
	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>		<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
1910.....	952,500,000	1,383,900,000	1913.....	1,220,500,000	1,420,900,000
1911.....	1,022,700,000	1,514,000,000	1914.....	939,100,000	866,100,000
1912.....	1,036,700,000	1,428,000,000	1915.....	674,100,000	313,900,000

Imports for Last Six Years, by Classes of Articles.

The value of imports into Russia over the European and Caucasus-Black Sea frontiers, and from Finland, during the last six years, is shown, by classes of articles, in the following table:

Years.	Food products.	Raw and partly manufactured products.	Livestock.	Manufactured products.
	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
1910.....	121,367,000	515,278,000	3,068,000	312,829,000
1911.....	134,134,000	517,048,000	3,459,000	368,023,000
1912.....	140,224,000	517,726,000	2,585,000	278,180,000
1913.....	163,002,000	622,495,000	3,106,000	431,937,000
1914.....	120,872,000	471,982,000	2,412,000	343,222,000
1915.....	75,578,000	297,340,000	870,000	360,356,000

Exports for Last Six Years, by Classes of Articles.

The fluctuations during the last six years in the value of the different classes of articles entering into Russia's export trade over the

European and Caucasus-Black Sea frontiers, and with Finland, are indicated by the following table:

Years.	Food products.	Raw and partly manufactured products.	Live stock.	Manufactured products.
	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
1910	907,203,000	430,357,000	22,808,000	23,507,000
1911	988,741,000	473,562,000	25,836,000	25,875,000
1912	789,263,000	578,827,000	30,075,000	29,872,000
1913	807,183,000	550,326,000	32,985,000	30,455,000
1914	492,080,000	339,074,000	12,918,000	22,032,000
1915	166,113,000	130,643,000	5,000	14,127,000

Value of Imports, by Principal Articles.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported into Russia over the European and Caucasus-Black Sea frontiers, and from Finland, during the last two years:

Articles.	1914	1915
Agricultural implements:		
Machinery—	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
Simple, without steam motors	13,891,000	364,000
Complex	14,786,000	302,000
Tools	2,659,000	709,000
Aluminum	1,807,000	9,914,000
Animals, live (except fish)	2,334,000	844,000
Antimony	1,293,000	2,389,000
Beeswax	4,720,000	3,458,000
Breadstuffs:		
Cereals	10,404,000	434,000
Rice	3,638,000	93,000
Building materials (clay, chalk, plaster of Paris, cement, etc.)	3,765,000	151,000
Buttons	1,811,000	866,000
Cars, carriages, etc.: Automobiles (including motor trucks and chassis)	15,979,000	28,030,000
Chemicals, drugs, etc.:		
Chemicals	21,894,000	33,506,000
Berthollet's salts	846,000	3,071,000
Nitrate of soda	5,515,000	6,248,000
Sal ammoniac and nitrate, carbonate, and sulphate of ammonia	228,000	2,228,000
Dyestuffs and paints	10,130,000	5,115,000
Medicines	1,561,000	1,136,000
Clocks and watches, and parts of	1,536,000	2,236,000
Coal and coke:		
Coal, charcoal, and peat	46,317,000	14,763,000
Coke	6,195,000	110,000
Cocoa:		
Beans and husks	2,682,000	5,223,000
Powdered	1,304,000	688,000
Coffee	5,600,000	8,757,000
Colophony	3,184,000	1,830,000
Copper, and manufactures of:		
Copper and copper sheets, rods and bars	6,660,000	14,288,000
Machines and parts	2,098,000	1,228,000
Other manufactures (including wire) of copper, copper alloys, and other metals and metal alloys, n.e.s.	8,948,000	2,781,000
Copra	10,293,000	555,000
Cotton, and manufactures of:		
Cotton, raw and waste	88,506,000	42,700,000
Goods	13,712,000	8,102,000
Yarn	6,913,000	2,864,000
Earthenware, pottery, porcelain, bricks, and tiles of all kinds	4,442,000	1,255,000
Fertilizers	5,708,000	71,000
Fibers, and manufactures of:		
Jute and jute tow	7,236,000	1,208,000
Manufactures	8,536,000	8,718,000
Cables, rope, and twine of jute, hemp, flax, etc.	5,191,000	1,646,000
Sacks, jute and linen, and jute textiles for sacking and packing	942,000	3,488,000
Fish	23,899,000	6,736,000
Fresh	3,054,000	1,112,000
Salted and smoked: Herrings	16,299,000	2,687,000
Fruits and nuts:		
Fruits, fresh	9,302,000	4,442,000
Fruits, dried	1,187,000	440,000
Nuts	3,192,000	438,000
Furs	7,456,000	3,037,000
Glass wares (including plate glass and mirrors)	3,379,000	604,000
Gold, silver, and platinum, and manufactures of	2,140,000	506,000

Articles.	1914	1915
	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
Grease and oils: Animal fat and oils.....	10,124,000	941,000
Grinding and polishing substances.....	1,976,000	1,396,000
Hay and straw.....	1,071,000	1,685,000
Hides and skins (except fur skins).....	12,442,000	147,000
India rubber and gutta percha, and manufactures of:		
India rubber and gutta percha.....	28,751,000	30,879,000
Manufactures.....	1,393,000	527,000
Instruments:		
Musical.....	3,641,000	368,000
Physical, astronomical, mathematical, and similar instruments and apparatus, and electrotechnical appliances.....	14,714,000	11,630,000
Electric lamps.....	3,769,000	4,574,000
Iron and steel, and manufactures of:		
Boilermakers' wares, and pipes.....	7,510,000	4,797,000
Cast iron.....	3,420,000	3,336,000
Cast-iron manufactures.....	3,061,000	717,600
Firearms and accessories and side arms.....	1,679,000	4,631,000
Machinery and parts.....	96,991,000	43,891,000
Dynamics and motors.....	6,845,000	2,696,000
Engines—		
Gasoline and oil engines.....	6,994,000	2,674,000
Steam.....	3,426,000	840,000
Portable engines for thrashing machines and steam plows.....	6,675,000	117,000
Metal-working machines.....	11,669,000	15,115,000
Parts.....	12,154,000	4,635,000
Pumps and portable fire engines.....	6,322,000	1,206,000
Manufactured iron.....	6,316,000	2,756,000
Bars, rods, pigs, etc.....	2,092,000	1,598,000
Sheets.....	4,102,000	1,158,000
Manufactures of iron and steel, n. e. s.....	7,268,000	14,340,000
Steel.....	3,017,000	6,006,000
Tinplate and tinplate manufactures.....	4,141,000	1,480,000
Tools, hand.....	4,574,000	2,533,000
Wire.....	1,567,000	2,532,000
Wire manufactures—		
Nails, rivets, pins, and pegs for pianos; barbed wire.....	168,000	20,922,000
Other.....	1,944,000	3,515,000
Knit goods:		
Cotton.....	4,021,000	3,623,000
Other.....	1,824,000	1,412,000
Lace and lace manufactures (except silk).....	2,004,000	799,000
Lead.....	12,031,000	10,978,000
Leather, and manufactures of:		
Leather.....	16,062,000	18,459,000
Manufactures.....	5,227,000	22,792,000
Boots and shoes.....	1,617,000	20,825,000
Meat and dairy products: Dairy products—		
Cheese.....	1,245,000	1,219,000
Milk.....	1,714,000	2,409,000
Nickel and nickel sheets.....	7,585,000	5,165,000
Oils:		
Mineral.....	1,504,000	1,991,000
Vegetable.....	3,639,000	4,376,000
Paper, and manufactures of:		
Cardboard and Bristol board, and manufactures of.....	2,332,000	2,939,000
Packing paper.....	3,554,000	5,335,000
Other (including books, pictures, etc.).....	24,942,000	32,978,000
Paper stock:		
Wood pulp—		
Chemical wood pulp and paper pulp made of rags, straw, peat, etc.....	1,236,000	4,097,000
Mechanical.....	777,000	2,091,000
Other (rags, clippings, and waste).....	1,331,000	18,000
Paraffin.....	1,313,000	1,075,000
Pencils, pens, etc.....	1,396,000	1,822,000
Seeds, bulbs, and plants.....	4,698,000	1,134,000
Silk, and manufactures of:		
Raw, cocoons, and waste.....	19,771,000	11,946,000
Manufactures of—		
Yarn.....	596,000	437,000
Other.....	6,919,000	2,746,000
Silk, artificial.....	2,521,000	717,000
Spices.....	2,838,000	2,202,000
Spirits, wines, etc.:		
Spirits.....	4,688,000	1,515,000
Wines.....	7,934,000	2,122,000
Stone, rough, or rough-dressed.....	3,034,000	1,093,000
Tanning materials.....	5,209,000	5,461,000
Tea.....	37,094,000	24,767,000
Tin.....	8,426,000	5,126,000
Tobacco.....	1,322,000	1,045,000
Toilet and fancy articles, n. e. s.; toys.....	4,390,000	894,000
Toilet preparations.....	3,068,000	3,336,000
Vessels.....	6,426,000	7,013,000
Wearing apparel (except silk).....	1,669,000	4,807,000

Articles.	1914	1915
Wood, and manufactures of:	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
Lumber and timber.....	10,000,000	8,569,000
Firewood.....	2,966,000	5,927,000
Manufactures.....	7,040,000	5,048,000
Turners' and cabinetmakers' wares, and furniture.....	4,195,000	3,326,000
Wool, and manufactures of:		
Uncombed, unspun.....	40,037,000	7,307,000
Combed, spun, or twisted.....	13,305,000	1,222,000
Manufactures (including carpets).....	11,069,000	28,648,000
Zinc in pigs, sheets, etc.....	4,956,000	10,768,000
All other articles.....	39,006,000	19,148,000
Total.....	939,098,000	674,138,000

Value of Exports, by Principal Articles.

The value of the principal articles of export over the European and Caucasus-Black Sea frontiers of Russia, and to Finland, during the last two years, is shown in the following table:

Articles.	1914	1915	Articles.	1914	1915
	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>		<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
Animals, live.....	12,918,000	5,000	Oil cake.....	22,570,000	4,421,000
Horses.....	8,455,000	4,000	Oils, mineral.....		
Asbestos.....	1,130,000	239,000	Benzine and gasoline.....	6,114,000	213,000
Bone and bone dust.....	1,177,000	841,000	Kerosene and other illuminating oils.....	10,658,000	1,942,000
Breadstuffs:			Lubricating oils.....	10,053,000	414,000
Barley.....	94,374,000	410,000	Solar oil.....	2,137,000	442,000
Bran.....	17,887,000	5,275,000	Other.....	1,114,000	124,000
Corn.....	12,639,000	65,000	Oils, vegetable.....	1,672,000	1,555,000
Flour—			Platinum.....	5,686,000	7,632,000
Rye.....	5,501,000	16,775,000	Potato flour and starch.....	180,000	1,350,000
Wheat.....	8,892,000	14,469,000	Salt, kitchen.....	68,000	1,342,000
Oats.....	14,147,000	159,000	Sausage casings.....	1,483,000	327,000
Rye.....	19,277,000	9,750,000	Seeds:		
Wheat.....	163,825,000	18,646,000	Clover.....	2,314,000	1,016,000
Bristles.....	5,620,000	4,986,000	Linseed.....	8,634,000	1,159,000
Coal and coke.....	386,000	2,760,000	Vetch.....	1,177,000	15,000
Cotton:			Other.....	7,280,000	560,000
Raw.....	32,000	1,318,000	Spirits, wines, and malt liquors.....	2,362,000	1,327,000
Textiles.....	1,265,000	907,000	Sugar:		
Eggs.....	58,495,000	14,309,000	Raw.....	6,229,000	9,877,000
Fibers:			Refined.....	320,000	450,000
Flax.....	64,256,000	31,057,000	Tobacco, and manufactures of:		
Flax tow.....	6,344,000	7,677,000	Cigars and cigarettes.....	1,124,000	1,356,000
Hemp.....	11,720,000	4,549,000	Leaf.....	2,454,000	795,000
Hemp tow.....	1,168,000	531,000	Other.....	383,000	110,000
Fish and fish products:			Vegetables:		
Caviar.....	2,635,000	1,054,000	Lentils and beans.....	1,540,000	521,000
Fish.....	1,552,000	785,000	Peas.....	6,865,000	804,000
Fruits and berries.....	2,157,000	1,261,000	Other.....	1,461,000	719,000
Fur skins:			Wood, and manufactures of:		
Sheep and goat.....	6,867,000	875,000	Beams, squared.....	3,900,000	163,000
Other.....	6,265,000	2,709,000	Boards.....	67,410,000	24,652,000
Hides.....	16,346,000	6,890,000	Carpenters' and joiners' wares.....	2,557,000	1,424,080
Horsehair.....	1,345,000	589,000	Lumber (fir, oak, pine, etc).....	10,428,000	486,000
India rubber, manufactures of.....	5,168,000	1,907,000	Pft props and pillars.....	4,997,000	329,000
Iron and steel, manufactures of:			Wood for making matches and paper pulp.....	12,673,000	299,000
Iron, cast and malleable.....	657,000	1,608,000	Other.....	5,388,000	1,872,000
Machinery and parts.....	1,080,000	919,000	Wool, raw.....	4,611,000	810,000
Ore, iron.....	1,630,000		All other articles.....	32,216,000	22,124,000
Rails.....	33,000	2,318,000			
Other.....	1,064,000	867,000	Total.....	866,104,000	313,888,000
Leather.....	518,000	2,331,000			
Manganese ore.....	9,336,000				
Meat and dairy products:					
Dairy products—					
Butter.....	48,339,000	62,230,000			
Milk and milk products, except butter.....	1,163,000	273,000			
Meat.....	5,976,000	1,310,000			
Poultry and game.....	5,866,000	583,000			

MANUFACTURED COCOA AND CHOCOLATE IN CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 23.]

No cacao is grown in Chile. The imports of cacao, or crude chocolate, for the past three years were as follows: 1913, 300,782 pounds; 1914, 255,101 pounds; and 1915, 310,387 pounds. The principal countries of supply were Ecuador and Peru, although in 1913 63,657 pounds of cacao were received from Germany. This article is imported into Chile almost exclusively through the port of Valparaiso. The principal purchasers are Hucke Hermanos y Cia., of Valparaiso, and McKay & Co., of Santiago. Both of these concerns are bakeries and biscuit-making establishments that also prepare chocolate and cocoa for household use, make sweet bar chocolate, milk chocolate, chocolate candies, etc.

Imports of Powdered or Ground Cocoa—Manufactured Chocolate.

Powdered or ground cocoa during the past three years has been imported in the following quantities and values from the countries mentioned:

Countries.	1913		1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
Great Britain.....	83,457	\$16,615	44,088	\$8,777	26,796	\$5,334
Germany.....	27,148	5,404	25,894	5,155	550	109
France.....	4,675	821	1,738	346	1,540	306
Belgium.....	6,490	1,292	10,615	2,113	528	105
Italy.....	22,209	4,421	4,532	902	9,339	1,829
United States.....	3,553	707	2,497	596	4,169	830
Other countries.....	3,652	727	2,409	479	3,553	608
Total.....	151,184	29,987	91,773	18,368	46,475	9,151

Imports of manufactured chocolate in bars or in powdered form were as follows:

Country.	1913		1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
United States.....	1,400	\$278	9,689	\$1,935	1,738	\$378
Belgium.....	19,048	3,784	1,124	223	671	133
France.....	163,452	20,533	68,894	13,688	32,758	6,521
Germany.....	17,626	3,502	8,852	1,789	652	135
Great Britain.....	162,318	32,477	107,178	21,293	49,841	9,922
Italy.....	23,634	4,695	9,304	1,848	14,222	2,821
Spain.....	7,253	1,441	2,557	508	2,222	453

The imports of manufactured chocolate, with the countries of origin, were as follows for the past three years:

Countries.	1913		1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
United States.....			231	\$46	4,468	\$889
Belgium.....	30,115	\$5,983	9,897	1,946	2,112	420
France.....	7,700	1,542	3,408	677	5,679	1,120
Germany.....	20,944	4,181	11,740	2,352	3,751	746
Great Britain.....	49,461	9,827	31,608	6,266	19,161	3,812
Italy.....	39,837	7,915	32,110	6,379	24,860	4,994
Spain.....	2,635	523				

Customs Duties—Selling Brands.

The duty under the 1916 customs tariff of Chile on crude chocolate (cacao) is \$0.0165 United States currency per pound, gross weight, and on cacao husks \$0.00825 United States currency per pound, gross weight. The duty on manufactured chocolate or cocoa for household use, sweetened or unsweetened, is \$0.0825 United States currency per pound, gross weight.

The largest sale is in imported unsweetened chocolate and cocoa powders packed in one-fourth, one-half, and 1 pound sealed tins. As the duty on imported chocolate and cocoa is assessed on gross weight, the importation of smaller tins of powdered chocolate or cocoa would be uneconomical.

The best selling brands of imported chocolate and cocoa for household use are of British, Italian, Swiss, and Dutch manufacture.

In this connection it might be well to add that there are in Chile a large number of grocery and provision houses, both wholesale and retail, owned and operated by Italian, British, and German merchants. These merchants naturally handle the imported lines with which they are most familiar and, in the case of the importing wholesale houses, those lines which are most profitably procurable in the foreign market in which they do their general purchasing.

Powdered chocolate and cocoa for household use made in the country is ordinarily sold in bulk by weight.

Prices of Chocolate.

The price of either the imported powdered chocolate or the domestic article ranges from \$0.80 United States currency to \$1. Imported or domestic cocoa from \$1.25 to \$1.60 per pound. The prices of either the foreign or domestic article being approximately the same, according to grade.

It is impossible to state the retail price of powdered chocolate or cocoa with accuracy, as Chilean currency is subject to wide fluctuations. For example, the best grade of domestic powdered chocolate was sold one year ago for \$5 Chile paper per pound. The price to-day in Chile paper is the same, but whereas a year ago the value in United States currency of \$5 Chile paper was about \$0.87, their present valuation is, more or less, \$1.06.

[A list of the principal importing grocers in Valparaiso and Santiago who may be interested in purchasing American chocolate or cocoa can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81366.]

FREE IMPORTATION OF FOODSTUFFS INTO MEXICO.

The Department of State has received a telegram from the special representative of American interests at Mexico City stating that a decree of the Carranza government, dated October 27 and published the following day, permits the free importation of the following articles: Lard, rice, barley, lentils, beans, peas, garbanzos (chick peas), habas (beans), and other grains not herein specified, sugar, flours of oats, barley, rye, corn, wheat, and sago.

The decree will remain in effect from November 1, 1916, until February 28, 1917, inclusive.

SEEKING ACCURACY IN MEASUREMENTS.

An investigation was made recently by an employee of the United States Bureau of Standards, while in the State of Maine, with a view to ascertaining whether manufacturers of barrels in a section of the State visited were complying with the recent act of Congress establishing a standard barrel for fruits, vegetables, and other dry commodities. The result of this investigation shows that the manufacturers visited are, almost without exception, making every effort to comply with the law, and the variations from the standard dimensions found are within reasonable tolerances.

In other instances the bureau has furnished information to those who were seeking accurate measurements of various sorts. Reports were submitted to the State Sealer of Weights and Measures of Illinois and the Weights and Measures Department of Chicago on an investigation recently conducted by the bureau for the purpose of ascertaining the accuracy of gasoline-measuring pumps in use in that State. Reports covering similar work in Pennsylvania are to be submitted to the authorities of that State soon.

Specifications for a scale for weighing paper for use in the Division of Supplies of the Department of Commerce were furnished. Specifications for a large automatic scale to be used in a warehouse of a tobacco manufacturer in New York City were furnished upon request. Information was given a patentee in regard to a device for the measurement of molasses in tanks, and to a garage company in regard to the care and testing of gasoline pumps.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 406, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guyana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..	Dec. 1	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 406, Customhouse, New York City, Oct. 22-Nov. 1.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon ..	Dec. 25	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany ..	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Wilrich, Gobhard	Quebec, Ontario.....	do.....	Do.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	do.....	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

PAPER FACTORY AT TCHERNIGOVKA, SIBERIA.

[Vice Consul H. F. Newhard, Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, Sept. 22.]

According to the Dalekaya Okraina of August 29, 1916, the paper factory at Tchernigovka, Maritime Province, is constructed of wood received from the Government sawmill at Sviagino and from the local forests. The factory covers an area of 17,200 square feet, and the equipment consists of the following:

Machinery section—one boiler installed, and a second one being installed.

Tub section; where straw is boiled—four tubs in commission, and four others not yet in commission.

Roller-box section, where straw is ground into pulp and passes to the press machine—two rollers in commission; two others are for the manufacture of wrapping paper.

The water tank for the entire building is situated in the roller-box section. In the main building are two straw-pulp receiving tubes through which the pulp passes to the machinery. Only one machine for making pasteboard is in operation. The foundation for the wrapping-paper machinery has been laid. The press is in operation in the same room. The factory has a steam dry kiln for pasteboard. Pasteboard is now manufactured in only one surface size in different thicknesses. The boiler is wood heated, but it is proposed to erect a generator before winter.

The factory was opened on July 28, 1916. The daily production has been about 1,800 pounds of pasteboard. The samples delivered proved to be satisfactory, and it is possible that a good demand will be created for it in the local market. There are employed in the factory 8 women at \$9, and 20 men at \$12.50 to \$15, per month.

The Tchernigovka factory will undoubtedly be followed by others. Paper mills producing the higher grades could be operated in this district if the investors would be satisfied with moderate returns, which would create opportunities for larger profits in other undertakings.

Brazilian Lumber Seeks American Market.

A lumber dealer in Para, Brazil, desires to get in touch with American importers of lumber, especially of cedar and "pau rosa." The latter is used for making piano cases, and also perfumery from the extract obtained by crushing it. The address of the dealer can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 79896.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1030 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 849 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. By. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

AMERICAN TRADE PROMOTION IN VENEZUELA.

A trade opportunity sent in February, 1916, from the La Guaira consulate in Venezuela has resulted in the signing of a contract for the purchase of \$50,000 worth of American jewelry each year for three years, in addition to sales of considerable value which already have been made. The contract involves business which formerly went entirely to Europe. Consul Homer Brett also reports that 39 American firms, whose addresses have been published in trade-promotion work at La Guaira, are known to have obtained business connections and to be selling various commodities regularly.

HIGHER RATES FOR LYON'S SILK-CONDITIONING HOUSE.

[Carlton Hurst, clerk, American consulate, Lyon, France, Oct. 6.]

Lyon's silk-conditioning house, one of the largest and most important of its kind in the world, has modified its tariff on account of the increased cost of raw products, and especially of combustibles. The new schedule went into effect on October 1, 1916.

The operation of analyzing silk includes a qualitative and a quantitative chemical analysis. The tariff for the former has not been changed and remains at 10 francs (\$1.93), whereas the latter has been increased from 4 francs (\$0.77) to 6 francs (\$1.16). The increase was due largely to the great scarcity and, when procured, to the high price of certain chemicals necessary to test and analyze various qualities of silk.

Tariff for Weighing Bales Unchanged.

The tariff for weighing bales or boxes upon arrival at the conditioning house remains unchanged and is regulated as follows: Up to 220 pounds gross weight, \$0.04; above 220 pounds, per 50 pounds or fractions thereof, \$0.01.

Formerly bales and boxes were weighed irrespective of gross weight, net weight, or with plain textile covering and were subject to the same tariff rates. The chamber of commerce of this city, however, found it expedient to submit each operation to a special tariff which is rated according to the time needed by the conditioning house to weigh and issue guaranty certificates.

(A) Gross weight: The former tariff is changed only in one instance:

Gross weight.	Tariffs per bale.	
	Old.	New.
Up to 51 kilos (112 pounds).....	\$0.14	\$0.14
From 51 to 61 kilos (112 to 134 pounds).....	.15	.15
61 to 71 kilos (134 to 156 pounds).....	.17	.17
71 to 81 kilos (156 to 178 pounds).....	.19	.19
81 to 91 kilos (178 to 200 pounds).....	.21	.21
91 to 101 kilos (200 to 222 pounds).....	.23	.23
101 to 121 kilos (222 to 266 pounds).....	.25	.25
121 to 151 kilos (266 to 332 pounds).....	.26	.27
151 to 201 kilos (332 to 442 pounds).....	.50	.50
201 and above (442 pounds).....	.75	.75

The rates as quoted will be temporarily applied to bales of cotton and wool as well. The tare will be deducted from the gross weight as given on the bill of lading.

(B) Weighing bales with plain textile casing—raw Chinese, Japanese, and tussah silk in original packing—and (C) net weight:

Weights.	Tariff per bale.	
	Old.	New.
WITH TEXTILE CASING.		
Up to 121 pounds per bale.....	\$0.15	\$0.23
121 to 143 pounds.....	.17	.28
143 to 187 pounds.....	.21	.32
NET WEIGHT.		
Up to 51 kilos (112 pounds).....	.14	.27
51 to 61 kilos (112 to 134 pounds).....	.15	.30
61 to 71 kilos (134 to 156 pounds).....	.17	.34
71 to 81 kilos (156 to 178 pounds).....	.19	.38
81 to 91 kilos (178 to 200 pounds).....	.21	.42
91 to 101 kilos (200 to 222 pounds).....	.23	.46
101 to 121 kilos (222 to 266 pounds).....	.25	.50
121 to 151 kilos (266 to 332 pounds).....	.25	.55

Rates with Respect to Packing Material.

The net weight is not calculated above 151 kilos (332 pounds). The tariff rates with respect to packing material are:

Packing material.	Tariffs per bale.		Packing material.	Tariffs per bale.	
	Old.	New.		Old.	New.
Asiatic silks in original straw casing, weighing not more than 85 kilos (187 pounds).....	\$0.19	\$0.28	Raw silks, with paper lining, surplus per bale.....	\$0.38	\$0.58
Raw silks, without special packing and weighing not more than 100 kilos (220 pounds).....	.38	.58	Raw silks, with hemp binding, surplus per bale.....	.38	.58
Raw silks, with special double casing.....	.77	1.15	Raw silks, in skeins, surplus per bale.....	.38	.58

In addition to the amendments quoted the Chamber of Commerce in this city has proposed certain modifications with respect to the operations of drying, weighing, and ungumming silk, which have been placed before the French Government for its approval. The date for these changes to go into effect has not yet been determined.

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

Six Months' Record of Silk Manufacturing.

The French customs returns of exports of silk goods during the first half of 1916, as reported by the British consul at Lyon, give the total value as 210,966,000 francs (\$40,716,438), compared with 158,377,000 francs (\$30,566,761) and 206,911,000 francs (\$39,933,823), respectively, for the corresponding periods in 1915 and 1914. As compared with the first six months of 1915 there was thus an increase of more than 50,000,000 francs in the first half of this year, and an increase of more than 4,000,000 francs, compared with the corresponding six months of 1914. The fact that the export trade was considered prosperous in the last-mentioned period is evidence, even when the rise in prices is discounted, of the recovery from the effects of the war which the Lyon silk-manufacturing industry has made.

While pongees, tussahs, and ribbons of pure silk show a marked falling off as compared with 1915 and 1914, practically every other item in the table of French silk exports, notably ribbons of mixed silk, velvets, and trimmings, gauzes, crépons, muslins, and articles of artificial silk show considerable increases. Silk goods sent by parcel post, the value of which in normal years is about 25,000,000 francs (\$4,825,000), continued to show a decline on the figures for the first half of 1914.

As regards the destination of these exports of silk goods, statistics show that, with the exception of Great Britain and Switzerland, exports to which declined as compared with 1914, every country contributed to the increase, exports to the United States, Spain, and South America showing the largest increases, namely, 150,400, and 330 per cent, respectively, over the exports in the first half of 1914.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS IN BAHIA, BRAZIL.

[Special Agent F. H. von Motz.]

The State of Bahia, although producing one-third of the world's cacao and as much tobacco as the entire Island of Cuba, is far behind the State of São Paulo in the use of agricultural implements and farm machinery. The land, after the forest growth has been removed and burned, is broken up and pulverized to provide for a seed bed for crops. The only implement used is an adze-shaped hoe, which does the service of both plow and cultivator, as occasion may demand.

Much of the land in the State of Bahia is too steep to permit the use of horse-drawn implements, and the cut-over timberlands, with the stumps still protruding, do not invite the use of labor-saving implements just now, but when more of the unoccupied lands have been taken up and as land generally increases in value the time will surely come when the use of walking plows, disk plows, and orchard cultivators will be necessary and when they will be sought by Bahian farmers.

CANNED GOODS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 17.]

A representative of one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in this consular district informs the American consulate that there exists at present in this market a shortage of canned corn and canned tomatoes. Canadian suppliers of these commodities have run behind on their orders and there is little probability of their being able to meet the demand for some time to come.

Prices on canned goods of the classes indicated have been advancing steadily for several months, and it is now felt by dealers that they can make imports from the United States, pay the duty and freights, and still be able to supply the trade at figures now prevailing. The Canadian duty on both corn and tomatoes in cans is $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound, weight of container included with contents, plus a war tax of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, which, however, applies only to canned tomatoes.

[The names of the wholesale grocers interested may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81336.]

DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN PORT OF KINGSTON.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 11.]

The completion of the fine causeway between Kingston and Barriefield, affording greater wharfage to the city and protection to the inner harbor, will aid in the rapid development of Kingston into one of the important commercial cities of the Dominion. The dry docks have had more than enough to do, and the same conditions prevail in the other industries of the city. With the opening of the new Welland Canal, which will increase the trade at this port both east and west, Kingston may be made one of the National ports.

A company has been organized to run a line of steamers between Kingston and Ottawa. As American capital develops the mineral resources of this consular district, the demand for shipping tonnage is greater. The port also has gradually become a distributing center for American coal, supplying almost the whole of the eastern part of this Province as well as ships plying between Montreal and the Great Lakes.

Imports of Goods from United States.

The United States now leads all other countries in shipments of goods to the importers and merchants of this consular district. On the other hand the export trade of the district has grown from \$800,000 in 1914 to more than \$2,000,000 this year.

Navigation, in former years declared officially closed on November 1, is now kept open until the end of the year for the transportation from the Great Lakes of grain which is transferred from larger vessels to smaller ones at this point in order to pass through the canals to Montreal.

When the proposed improvement at Oswego Harbor has been made a passenger line in all probability will be inaugurated between that port and Kingston. Efforts are being put forth both by the Canadian and Provincial Governments to improve the harbor conditions of this city.

Market Wanted for Hair and Bristles.

The American consul at Dairen, Manchuria, has transmitted the name of a person in his district who desires to communicate with American purchasers of cattle and horse hair and pig bristles of Manchurian and Mongolian origin. The inquirer, whose address can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 80686, operates a bone-dust and glue factory, using American machinery.

Imports of Hardware into Foreign Countries.

Statistics were recently compiled at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from the official returns of the respective countries, showing the imports of certain kinds of hardware into British India, Japan, China, Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Siam, Ceylon, and Chosen, and the principal countries of origin. These statistics can be examined at the bureau. Refer to file No. 162.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Cutlery-----	22851	Paper bags-----	22847
Dyestuffs-----	22845	Pencils-----	22851
Formaldehyde-----	22841	Planos-----	22850
Gems, precious-----	22843	Pipes and piping-----	22840
Hardware, small-----	22851	Pumps-----	22840
Leather, patent-----	22843	Razors-----	22843
Leather, shoe-----	22844	Shoe findings-----	22844
Looms-----	22849	Stationery supplies-----	22842
Machinery, paper-----	22846	Stones, precious-----	22843
Machinery, shoe factory-----	22844	Tanks, water-----	22840
Machinery, spinning-----	22849	Underwear-----	22848
Machinery, tanning-----	22844	Watches-----	22843
Office supplies-----	22842, 22844	Windmills-----	22840
Paper-----	22844	Writing materials-----	22842

22840.†—A man in Venezuela desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers of pumps, windmills, pipes and piping, and water tanks.

22841.†—A manufacturers' agent in Canada wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers and exporters of formaldehyde.

22842.*—A merchant in Spain desires to represent an American manufacturer of writing materials and office supplies. Correspondence in English. References.

22843.†—A firm in the Far East desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of watches, including wrist watches, and razors, patent leather for shoes, etc. The firm is also in a position to export precious gems and rough stones for mechanical purposes.

22844.†—A firm in Chile desires to represent the following American lines: Shoe findings, leather and machinery for shoe factories and tanneries, paper, and office supplies and appliances. Correspondence in English. Reference.

22845.†—A business man in France desires to represent American firms interested in the exportation of dyestuffs to that country. References.

22846.†—A merchant in Brazil asks the Bureau for the names of factories making machines for the manufacture of paper. Catalogues and price lists are desired.

22847.*—A business man in a foreign colonial possession desires to represent an American manufacturer of paper bags. Initial requirements: One hundred thousand cheap-grade manila paper bags. Correspondence in English. References.

22848.*—A business man in Norway desires to secure the agency for men's knit underwear, cotton and woolen. Correspondence in English. References.

22849.*—A firm in the Far East wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers of spinning machinery and looms. Catalogues and price lists are desired.

22850.†—An established firm in Peru is desirous of getting in touch with responsible manufacturers of pianos who are interested in having an exclusive agent in that market.

22851.*—A firm in Russia desires to communicate with manufacturers of small hardware, cutlery, and pencils. Correspondence in Russian or French. References.

PRICE COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS TO THE NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Oct. 30.]

Blockade authorities announce that no further facilities will be granted until further notice for exportation to Holland of flax, linen yarn and thread, linen manufactures, fresh fruits other than bananas, wax other than paraffin wax.

[Recent regulations in regard to shipments of certain goods to the Netherlands and Scandinavian countries were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 16.]

NETHERLANDS REPORT ON SUPPLIES OF TIN.

[Consul General S. Listoe, Rotterdam, Sept. 30.]

The production of Banka tin during June was 15,524 piculs (picul=133½ pounds). The production since March has been 46,587 piculs, compared with 41,664 piculs in the corresponding months of 1915. The Billiton Co. during August sold 3,783 piculs at Batavia and 4,620 piculs at Singapore. The following statement shows the position of tin in Holland on September 30, 1916:

Stocks of tin.	1916	1915	1914	Stocks of tin.	1916	1915	1914
Supply of spot in September:				Deliveries in 9 months:			
Banka.....	Slabs. 7,500	Slabs. 18,338	Slabs. 51,387	Banka.....	Slabs. 18,276	Slabs. 107,760	Slabs. 269,948
Billiton.....			300	Billiton.....	500	7,500	6,000
Straits.....				Straits.....			51,270
			51,687				327,218
Supply of spot in 9 months:				Stock in warehouse and landing:			
Banka.....	42,500	107,760	254,988	Banka.....			10,400
Billiton.....	500	7,600	6,300	Billiton.....		100	300
Straits.....			49,200	Straits.....			540
			310,488			100	11,240
Deliveries in September:				Unsold stock (in hands of the Netherlands Trading Society):			
Banka.....	3,685	18,338	42,187	Banka.....	29,915	8,821	133,122
Billiton.....		660	1,600				
Straits.....			1,470				
			45,157				

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN WORLD TRADE.

The opportunity to become the leading commercial nation of the world that now faces the United States, and the means by which that position may be attained, were discussed last evening by Dr. E. E. Pratt, chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in an address before the American Manufacturers' Export Association at its annual banquet in New York. He expressed perfect confidence in the ability of American manufacturers and exporters to hold their own in the trade struggle after the war.

Dr. Pratt took up the question of the possibility of competition from European goods in this struggle, and stated that something of the future might be seen by studying the past. Many facts which might be cited, he said, seemed to prove conclusively that wages and interest in Europe would increase considerably in the years following the war. "If this be true," he said, "then the whole level of prices in Europe will be higher." He spoke at some length upon the recent economic conference in Paris as bearing in an important way on the commercial relations of the United States with the belligerent countries. In the course of that discussion he said:

This conference dealt at length and in some detail with economic conditions which the various nations wish to bring about at the close of the war. If such an alliance actually comes into existence, there is no doubt that a similar alliance will be found among those powers now on the other side. We anticipate, therefore, two general economic groups in Europe building up barriers against the nations now opposed to them. This would leave the neutral nations of the world, and especially the United States, in a peculiar position. We would probably not receive the most favorable treatment from either side, nor am I inclined to believe that we would suffer from any special discrimination. It is unlikely that any of the nations of Europe will willingly handicap themselves by depriving themselves of the raw materials, the machinery, the labor-saving devices, and the capital which they will need immediately after the war and which they will be able to obtain only from the United States. However, these economic alliances and their possible effect upon the future trade of the United States must be seriously considered.

Important Measures Necessary to Maintain Position.

He said that the United States must undertake several important measures if it was to maintain its present prominent position in the commercial world. There were certain things for the Government to do, and other things for manufacturers and exporters to do. He emphasized as the first and perhaps most important point the necessity of getting a new point of view on the tariff. "It is not sufficient," he said, "that we should have a protective tariff, a tariff for revenue only, or free trade. We should look upon the tariff as an aid in building up trade. We should certainly not look upon the tariff as a barrier to trade. We would, it seems to me, be seriously hampering our future as one of the great industrial and commercial powers of the world if we set up the tariff merely as a barrier to the exchange of products between this country and other countries. I will not undertake to say that during the period of development through which we have passed such a tariff policy has been a mistaken one. I will, however, undertake to say that at present such a view of the tariff is incompatible with the position which we now occupy and would have serious consequence in the development of the United States as a world power. What we need is a bargaining tariff which would enable us to get the maximum advantage in interna-

tional trade. Provision for such a consideration of the tariff has been made in the act creating the new tariff commission." Dr. Pratt continued:

A subject closely related to the tariff is that of commercial treaties. We have been backward in the matter of negotiating commercial treaties with the principal nations of the world. We should not, however, be too hasty in criticising ourselves for not making greater progress in this matter. We should remember at this time that we, the United States, broke the best trade treaty that any nation ever had with the country which is undoubtedly our most promising market. Did we hear any great outcry from the business community? I have searched the files of our business publications, and I find that the matter received only scant and passing notice. I believe I am correct in saying that such a trade treaty with Russia could not be broken to-day, and that it would not have been broken if our business community had appreciated the everlasting harm it would do to our commercial relations with Russia. As soon as the nations of Europe are able to give this matter attention, we should be prepared to negotiate commercial treaties. Here again the tariff commission has been given certain specific duties.

One very important step in the development of our foreign trade remains to be taken. I refer to the passage of a measure which will permit our manufacturers to combine for the purpose of developing foreign trade. This will put our manufacturers on a basis similar to that of the manufacturers and exporters of other countries, and will enable us perhaps more than any other one thing to meet effectively the growing centralization of economic resources in Europe.

NEW SWISS COTTON-TRADE REGULATIONS.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 6.]

American cotton manufacturers and exporters will be interested in the new regulations of the Swiss Federal Council by which the Political Department, acting upon recommendations of a commission, will fix maximum prices in the cotton trade, and especially those for raw cotton, cotton yarn, thread, tissue, and other cotton goods.

The Swiss imports of raw cotton in 1915 amounted to 35,016 tons, and it is estimated that 22,040 tons will be the quantity for 1916. The needs for 1917 are 120,000 bales of American cotton and 40,000 bales Egyptian.

In order that the trade may be regulated to the best interests of the country a central office will be created in Zurich, which, together with the commission, will cooperate with the Political Department. The most important branches of the textile industry and trade will be represented by the commission. Both the commission and the central office will be subordinate to the Political Department.

Central Office and Commission to Enforce Regulations.

After maximum prices have been fixed, and regulations governing the cotton trade promulgated by the Political Department, it will be the duty of the central office and the commission to enforce them, and to confiscate goods, when necessary, for infractions.

After the regulations have become operative any transactions which may be contrary to the regulations are to be considered null and void. If more than maximum prices are charged, the transaction is to be considered closed at the maximum fixed prices. Differences that may arise relative to the interpretation of the regulations are to be settled through the commission, and not by regular legal proceedings.

INTERNAL-COMBUSTION MARINE ENGINES IN JAPAN.

[Vice Consul E. R. Dickover, Kobe, Sept. 1.]

The use of internal-combustion marine motors in Japan, up to the present time, has been confined chiefly to engines suitable for passenger launches and fishing boats; to heavy-duty, slow-speed, moderate-power engines, preferably built to burn kerosene or producer gas. Small pleasure launches, using high-speed gasoline engines of 3 to 10 horsepower, are found in Tokyo and the various ports, but the number of such launches in use is much smaller in proportion to population than in the United States.

Launches Provide Cheap Transportation.

The Japanese were quick to realize the value of the cheap transportation afforded by the use of launches on the rivers and canals of the larger cities. In Tokyo, launches with two or three trailers maintain regular service up the Sumida River and certain canals. They are operated by motors burning producer gas generated from coke. In a similar service in Yokohama the launches utilize semi-Diesel, kerosene-burning engines. There are also several launches plying between the mainland and the smaller islands of the Inland Sea. The number of passenger launches, however, is relatively small, and, in view of the rapid development in street railway transportation in the cities, it is not likely that the number will be increased to any extent in the future.

By far the greatest use of marine engines is in the fishing trade. As a rule, the engines are not used on the fishing boats themselves, but on vessels which visit the small villages in certain districts, collect the fish from the local fishermen, and take them to the cities. These vessels are of both Japanese and foreign types, but the predominant type is a round-bottom craft, 40 or 50 feet long, with a beam of 12 to 15 feet, and a draft of about 3 feet. Some are schooner rigged, but they usually rely upon their engines.

Usually of European or Japanese Make.

It is difficult to describe any one boat as a standard, but in the usual type the engines used are slow-speed, heavy-duty motors, 2-cycle, with 1 or 2 cylinders, and from 20 to 50 brake horsepower. These motors are usually of European or Japanese make, and burn kerosene or producer gas. The older models have heated carburetors for the purpose of vaporizing the kerosene and are fired by electricity, but the later types use the semi-Diesel system of a hot bulb and fuel injection for vaporization and ignition. The engines usually swing 3-blade propellers of 24 to 28 inches diameter at the rate of about 400 revolutions per minute, and give the vessels a speed of 7 or 8 knots an hour.

As many of the bays and harbors of the Japanese coast are very shallow these fish-collecting boats are often equipped with propellers which may be raised or lowered at will, by means of a telescopic rear strut and a universal joint on the propeller shaft just aft the stuffing-box, on the exterior of the hull. The tunnel-stern construction for shallow water, with the propeller operating within an inclosed tunnel, has not yet been introduced into Japan.

Extensive Field for Small Trading Vessels.

Large-size Diesel engines have not yet been adopted to any great extent. The innumerable small islands that make up a large part of the Japanese Empire offer an extensive field for small trading vessels. This field is at present occupied by small steamers and by schooners of about 500 tons dead-weight, which depend upon their sails alone for motive power. These schooners could be advantageously equipped with Diesel engines for auxiliary power, but this has not yet been done, on account of the limited capital upon which the owners of the vessels operate.

Several ironworking firms have recently undertaken the manufacture of marine engines in Japan, one of the most important being the Ikegai Iron Works, of Tokyo. Its engines are of the two-cycle, semi-Diesel type and range from 3 to 50 horsepower in stock sizes. Larger motors are built to order. Below 30 horsepower the engines are single cylinder; above that, double. The engines have high compression and ignition is effected by injecting the fuel, in the form of a spray, against a hot bulb in the cylinder head. Although the system is the same as that used in other countries in engines operating on crude oil, the Ikegai engines are usually run on kerosene or other light oils only.

Prices of Various Motors in Tokyo.

The prices of the motors, complete with reverse gears, propeller shaft, propeller, and tools, at the factory in Tokyo (packing extra) are: 3 horsepower, \$290; 5 horsepower, \$390; 8 horsepower, \$597.50; 10 horsepower, \$672.50; 12 horsepower, \$827.50; 16 horsepower, \$977.50; 20 horsepower, \$1,222.50; 25 horsepower, \$1,387.50; 30 horsepower, \$1,575; 40 horsepower, \$2,145; 50 horsepower, \$2,625.

The principal manufacturer of producer-gas marine engines is the Hatsu-do-ki Seizo Kabushiki Kaisha (Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturing Co.), of Osaka. The engines produced by this firm are of the four-cycle type, from 20 to 50 horsepower, and of 1 and 2 cylinders. The gas is generated from coke. The prices are: 20 horsepower, \$1,620; 25 horsepower, \$1,880; 30 horsepower, \$2,117.50; 40 horsepower, \$2,585; 50 horsepower, \$3,000. These engines are not kept in stock, but are manufactured as the demand arises. About 50 per year are produced. No small, high-speed gasoline motors are manufactured in Japan.

Up to the present time, engines of German, Swedish, and English makes have dominated the market, but during recent years Japanese-made engines have been gradually superseding the European motors.

Few Pleasure Launches in Operation.

Japan, with its innumerable bays, rivers, lakes, and canals, would seem to be an ideal place for small pleasure launches and moderate-size cruisers, but in reality the number of such boats is very small. The reasons are (1) the fact that the Japanese have not yet adopted boating as a sport, (2) the high price of motors, and (3) the high price of gasoline. A few Japanese in Tokyo have equipped launches, built on racing lines, with American motors, but the sport has not had an enthusiastic reception among the great mass of the people.

[Pictures of semi-Diesel engines, and a diagram of an adjustable propeller for shallow water, all made in Tokyo, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 80798.]

SHIRTS AND COLLARS IN ANDALUSIA.

[Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, Seville, Spain, June 2.]

There is an opportunity for the introduction of American collars, cuffs, and shirts in Seville, if manufacturers are prepared to meet the trade with satisfactory prices and terms. The types most popular in Seville are those known in America as "box" collars. They come under various marks, each manufacturer giving his brand a particular trade name. A plate transmitted to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce shows the various kinds of collars sold in Seville. Measurements are in centimeters of 0.3937 inch each.

Various Classes of Collars.

Form No. 2, a high-standing, wing-end collar, comes in a height of 5 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters. This type does not have a large sale.

Form No. 3, high-standing, straight-end collar, also not in great demand, has a height of $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters.

Form No. 4, another type of high-standing, straight-end collar, not in great demand, has a height of 7 centimeters all around.

Form No. 5, the most popular type of high-standing dress collar, has small wings with rounded corners, and a height of $5\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters all around.

Form No. 6, a low box collar with open front, a popular type, has a height of 4 centimeters back and front.

Form No. 7 (not shown in the illustration) is a sailor collar.

Form No. 8, high-standing dress collar without tabs (not particularly popular), has a height of 5 centimeters all around.

Form No. 10, regulation box collar, one of the most popular forms, has a height of $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters.

Form No. 12, a high dress wing collar (not very popular), has a height of 7 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters.

Some of the Popular Types.

Form No. 16, box collar, with close fitting front, a very popular type, has a height of $5\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters all around.

Form No. 17, a lower box collar with straight corners, a popular form, has a height of 6 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters.

Form No. 21, a very low box collar with rounded corners, a popular form, especially among older men, has a height of 4 centimeters all around.

Form No. 25, a straight, high dress collar, not particularly popular, has a height of 6 by 5 centimeters.

Forms Nos. 36, 39, and 40 are for boys, the first a high wing collar, the second a high box collar with rounded corners, and the third a slightly lower box collar, with rounded corners. All are popular.

Two types of coachmen's collars, with "dickies" attached, are also shown in the illustrations, one with a straight collar and the other with a wing collar, but there is no large sale for either of these.

Sizes Marked in Centimeters.

All collars sold here come in sizes of from 34 to 44 centimeters. There are no half sizes.

As a general rule collars sold in Seville are of white linen. There is little call for fancy colored collars, except when they are like the shirts with which they are worn. Colored collars to match the shirts

to which they are attached, or with which they are sold, are largely worn in Spain. These are usually of the box type or with pointed ends. Fancy-fabric collars are not largely sold, but those of piqué are coming into use, and soft collars of various fabrics, including silk, are seen in the stores and are worn by some of the "smart" dressers.

Collars sell at retail at 75 centimos each or 8 pesetas per dozen, and as the present exchange is approximately 5 pesetas to the dollar this makes collars at retail cost 15 cents each or \$1.60 per dozen.

Some houses sell as low as 50 centimos per collar, or 5.50 pesetas per dozen. Children's collars cost 6 pesetas per dozen.

Some Collars Imported from England.

Most of the collars sold in Seville are either locally made or imported from Barcelona. Some are also brought here from England, which seems to be the only foreign country from which they are obtained. Dealers state that the majority of the collars are locally manufactured by the various shops or shirt makers. There are no large factories for collars, nor are they produced in large quantities by the stores, whose output is only sufficiently large to meet their own retail trade or to supply their branch houses.

Wholesale prices are very difficult to obtain, as the dealers regard their costs of production as trade secrets and are loth to give out any information.

British Types Predominate in the Shops.

The usual method of placing collars in Seville is through traveling salesmen, who make periodical visits to the Spanish cities from the Barcelona manufacturers and from England and sell from samples. The English styles are those copied and sold in Spain, and therefore such types of collars or shirts as are seen in British shops will also be found to be the predominating types in Spain, except that there will not be so large a number of soft collars or sport shirts, especially in southern Spain, where dress generally is somewhat more formal than in England or the United States. Even in Seville, where the temperature goes to 120 degrees in the shade during the summer months, men seldom go about the streets without waistcoats and are practically never seen, even in the country, without a coat.

The principal point to be considered in this trade is whether American collars could stand the import duties, which are somewhat heavy in Spain.

Terms of Payment and Freight Charges.

Barcelona firms selling collars in Seville usually offer terms of 90 days after delivery of the goods, and importers from England usually grant similar terms in order to obtain the business. It is probable that American firms contemplating entering the trade would have to make similar concessions.

It is possible that with the prevailing high freight rates it would be impossible to do business in Spain at present, but it is believed that an opportunity exists which might well be worth investigating for future business.

Collars of rubber are sold in Seville to a considerable extent in various forms. Prices range from 50 to 80 centimos.

Classes of Shirts Chiefly in Demand.

Shirts with white stiff bosoms sell at 3 pesetas (60 cents) up, a medium-quality shirt costing 10 pesetas (\$2). Shirts are seen with wide plaited bosoms, 6 or 8 plaits; with a single plait and pearl buttons with stiff cuffs, and also without cuffs; white, with turned-down collar and single cuffs attached; with turned-down collar, double cuffs, pearl buttons, and collar attached, in white, colors, stripes, figures, and flannelettes; in stripes and figures, with a turned-down collar of the same material and cuffs detachable; in white, without collar or cuffs, but with striped bosoms, and in white with a number of fine plaits and pearl buttons.

As a general rule it may be stated that the **cheapest qualities of shirts**, such as sell in America at 50 to 60 cents, cost here 3 to 5 pesetas (60 cents to \$1); shirts of better quality, approximating the \$1 American shirts, cost from 6 to 10 pesetas (\$1.20 to \$2); and still better shirts cost approximately double what they would in the United States.

Many of those who buy the better qualities of shirts here have them made to order. They can be so obtained at 7 to 20 pesetas (\$1.40 to \$4) each. Flannel, flannelette, piqué, and silk shirts are more expensive.

Ready-made shirts usually have sleeves, etc., made of only one length for any particular size of neck, and it is therefore difficult to fit all purchasers, so that the custom-made shirt has a larger sale. A line of well-made, ready-to-wear shirts, with different sleeve lengths, should find ready purchasers in Seville, especially if attractively put up and displayed.

Other Objections to Coat Shirts.

The principal objection that has been offered heretofore to American shirts is that they are made coat style, with which the Spanish people are not familiar. The older style would obtain a readier sale.

An American firm wishing to enter the trade probably would find it advantageous to make arrangements with some firm in Spain to handle an exclusive agency, and send traveling men with samples throughout the country. Such an agency might, perhaps, be handled from Seville, but at Barcelona better, more direct, and more frequent steamship connections are available.

Literature, catalogues, etc., should be in Spanish, and prices, if quoted in pesetas or francs, could be compared more easily with those now secured from Spanish firms. Quotations c. i. f. are desirable, but hardly possible at the present time, and they should therefore be f. o. b. Atlantic seaport. Quotations f. o. b. factory are most unsatisfactory for this market.

Might Allow Percentage for Advertising.

A manufacturer contemplating building up a business in Spain might well allow his agents a certain percentage on sales for advertising purposes, as this has been found a satisfactory way of bringing goods to the attention of purchasers in this country. The usual means are by newspapers, magazines, billboards, electric signs, and lantern slides at moving-picture shows. The last-mentioned form of advertising is particularly suitable for Seville, as there are many such

exhibitions in the city squares and parks during the summer months, and thousands attend them nightly.

[The plate mentioned in this dispatch upon which are reproduced various types of collars may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Lists of collar dealers in Seville may also be obtained from the same offices. Refer in each case to file No. 81078.]

AMERICAN SALMON IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 22.]

The quinnat salmon, so common in the rivers of the Pacific coast of North America, has been successfully introduced into the rivers of New Zealand. They were first introduced in 1906, and fish have been taken weighing 32 pounds, and they are increasing rapidly according to a late report. Conditions are favorable and the Minister of Marine is quoted as having stated that his department will secure within the next year specimens of New Zealand salmon weighing as much as 50 pounds.

New Zealand is noted for its excellent fresh-water fish, its many streams abounding with fine specimens. Salt-water fish also are plentiful, which are sold at a price that puts them within the reach of everyone. The city of Auckland has established a municipal fish market which is very popular.

It is the desire of the New Zealand Government to supply the Australian demand for salmon, which amounted to 4,750,000 pounds during 1910, all of which came from the Pacific coast of the United States and Canada. New Zealand alone took about 1,400,000 pounds during 1914.

The duty on salmon is 4 cents per pound from the United Kingdom and possessions and 2 cents additional from all other countries, also a war tax of 1 per cent from all countries.

LAST YEAR'S CROPS IN RUSSIA.

[Yearbook of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture.]

The following table shows the acreage and production of the principal crops in Russia in 1914 and 1915:

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Acres.	Short tons.	Acres.	Short tons.
Barley.....	30,872,228	9,672,550	29,748,043	9,467,400
Buckwheat.....	4,856,186	910,390	4,429,019	1,011,800
Corn.....	4,036,424	2,271,690	4,053,052	1,776,600
Flaxseed.....	1,584,827	1,410,920	1,520,180	(a)
Lentils and beans.....	1,186,621	258,350	1,164,291	251,300
Linsed.....	8,890,066	804,950	8,350,866	(a)
Millet.....	7,936,947	2,064,090	8,074,743	2,690,300
Oats.....	46,570,840	14,138,960	44,787,359	13,846,700
Rye.....	2,270,947	551,900	1,882,143	418,000
Potatoes.....	9,408,442	28,942,880	8,791,742	22,595,600
Soy.....	69,217,810	23,245,580	69,024,018	26,850,800
Spelt.....	523,090	126,540	544,329	134,100
Wheat.....	75,025,770	22,378,560	73,328,036	22,846,600
Total.....	257,369,265	105,479,200	250,699,521	100,734,100

^a Returns not available.

^b Not including Poland, for which information is lacking.

FUR TRADE AT NIZHNI NOVGOROD FAIR.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 28.]

Under date of September 19, 1916, Mr. C. F. Just, Canadian commercial agent at Petrograd, has forwarded the following notes on the Nizhni Novgorod fair, together with information about the Russian fur trade.

The great annual fair at Nizhni Novgorod, which was officially closed in the early days of September, was marked by unusual activity this year. The Imperial State Bank reports that the transactions on current account exceeded by 60,000,000 rubles (the present exchange value of the ruble is about \$0.31) the turnover of the previous year. Representatives of several of the allied Governments visited the fair, and various proposals have been put forward for a closer participation in its proceedings. One suggestion was that of the desirability of maintaining official exhibits of allied-country manufactured articles, which it is desired to popularize among the peasant consumers. The Russian-American Chamber of Commerce has decided to open a branch of its organization at Nizhni Novgorod, and the nucleus of a local membership has already been secured.

Conferences of the Fur Interests—Exports and Imports.

At the conferences held by the fur interests during the closing days of the fair there came up for discussion the following subjects bearing on the present position and the future conduct of the Russian fur industry:

(1) The exportation of furs abroad and the importation of foreign furs into Russia, (2) the prolongation of the prohibition to hunt the sable, and (3) the organization of fur auctions in Russia.

Resolutions were passed, to be submitted to the Government, that the exportation of furs to neutral countries should be permitted to take place on the same basis as laid down for allied countries, in order to overcome the embarrassment that the existing regulations had created in connection with such exports, especially to the United States; that the giving of bonds by the foreign importing houses as a guaranty that the furs imported should not be reexported to enemy countries should be abolished, this guaranty in future to be undertaken by the Russian exporting houses. It was argued that the effect of these measures would be to relieve the United States firms financially, who at the present time are forced to employ double the amount of capital that was necessary in normal times.

It was also recommended that karakul, mohair, and mouflon furs should be exempted from the present prohibition to export, as these furs were not wanted for military purposes and large stocks had accumulated in Russia.

In regard to the importation of furs, the chief difficulties were those of transportation, and the Government is to be requested to cooperate in removing this difficulty by providing 15 to 20 railway cars in the course of the winter for the conveyance of furs from Vladivostok to European Russia.

Proposed Revision of Sable-hunting Regulations.

On the question of the close season for trapping sable, two views were developed at the conference. On the one hand, the fur traders

insisted on the prolongation of prohibition to trap for another three years from October next, in order to save the sable from extermination and give time for natural reproduction, independently of any other measures that the Department of Agriculture might adopt to maintain the prohibition in force.

The official view, as stated by the chairman of the sable investigation commission, was that the prolongation of the closed season as at present is inadvisable, because it is impossible to enforce throughout the country. It is being constantly evaded, and is in consequence ineffective. The authorities favor forbidding absolutely the taking of sable in two districts, one covering 200,000 square versts (88,000 square miles) in the Transbaikal and the other covering 600,000 square versts (264,000 square miles) in the Yeneseiskaya Government, with proper measures of control. Certain districts, however, would be defined in which the taking of sable would be permissible, and it is hoped thus to preserve the sable industry more effectively than by total prohibition. In Kamchatka, where hunting is the only means of livelihood, other measures than total prohibition would be called for. The conference agreed to the Government view, but requested that the official stamping of the sable pelts offered for sale should be continued for statistical purposes and for the purpose of ascertaining the practical results of the new system introduced by the Government.

Organization of Fur Auctions.

On the question of fur auctions it was unanimously agreed to concentrate at one point the whole of the local fur business of the country. The conference supported the proposal of the Government that the necessary organization of the auctions should be undertaken by a stock company, and the Moscow Society for the Fur Industry was empowered, in concert with the exchange committees and the fur-trading companies, to draw up the articles of association of the said company and to submit them for the approval of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

INCREASE IN URBAN POPULATION IN CANADIAN WEST.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Oct. 27.]

A preliminary return of the quinquennial census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, taken last June, giving the population of the cities, towns, and villages in the three Provinces, shows increases in nearly all cases, although the growth of urban population has not been nearly so great as was the case during the boom times of the two previous five-year periods. The total gain in population of the 30 cities and towns enumerated is about 90,000, as against a gain of over 150,000 between 1906 and 1911.

The population of the principal cities of the three Provinces in 1911 and 1916 was as follows:

Cities.	1911	1916	Cities.	1911	1916
Winnipeg.....	136,035	162,999	Saskatoon.....	12,004	21,054
Calgary.....	43,704	56,302	Moose Jaw.....	13,823	16,880
Edmonton.....	24,900	58,794	Brandon.....	12,639	15,225
Regina.....	30,213	26,105	St. Boniface.....	7,483	11,022

SALT FISH TRADE IN SOUTH CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 20.]

There has been a steady and satisfactory increase in the trade in salt and dry fish into China in the past few years in which the United States has had a fair share, but which may be increased with persistent attention. The trade has steadily increased in South China as well as in China as a whole. The total imports of dry and salt fish into all China in 1915 were valued at \$9,233,226 gold as compared with \$8,916,371 in 1914. The part South China has had in this increase is shown by the fact that, for example, the imports into Foochow in 1913 amounted to 46,609 piculs, in 1914 to 56,489 piculs, and in 1915 to 65,489 piculs. Imports into Amoy in 1913 amounted to 30,870 piculs, in 1914 to 37,685 piculs, and in 1915 to 42,685 piculs. Imports into Swatow in 1913 amounted to 37,751 piculs, in 1914 to 49,312 piculs, and in 1915 to 67,796 piculs (1 picul=133½ pounds). Imports of such fish into Canton alone reach a value in excess of \$500,000 gold annually. The import of all such products into this field so far this year is considerably below that for the same period of last year, but the setback is temporary.

Native and Japanese Fish—High Price of Salt.

As indicated in previous reports, about half of the entire import of such goods into China is handled through Hongkong. The greater portion of the import is of native-cured fish produced in Hongkong and Macao waters. There is also a large amount of Japanese fish handled through Hongkong, and the trade in Japanese fish in North China is particularly large. But the proportion of American fish handled is large and can be larger, the only element in the matter being that of comparative cheapness. Cheap fish from America can be sold in almost limitless amount. The present high freight rates tell severely against American fish. On the other hand the high cost of salt in China, possibly due to reorganization of the salt tax, is stimulating the import of foreign-cured salt fish. The trade merits the constant and careful attention of American exporters.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN BANK FOR NEW YORK.

The formation of a Norwegian-American bank in New York is announced in an article published in the *Tidens Tegn*, a translation of which has been forwarded from Christiania by American Minister Albert G. Schmedeman. Norwegian bankers are interested in the project, but it is announced that opportunity will be given for ship-owners, exporters, and importers having interests in North America to participate. The whole capital is guaranteed, it is stated, by the participating banks, and their representatives will proceed to New York to organize the bank. A considerable portion of the capital is to be reserved for Scandinavian circles in North America.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER, BY COUNTRIES.

The total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during September and the nine months ended September, 1916, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have just been made public by the Bureau of

Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce,
as follows:

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of September—		9 months ended with Sep- tember—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$41,386,513	\$40,931,873	\$483,805,671	\$392,321,420
North America.....	42,887,960	40,824,653	500,951,979	305,222,154
South America.....	30,875,636	30,052,765	317,546,424	229,501,940
Asia.....	40,173,250	31,503,384	393,893,434	215,521,352
Oceania.....	5,707,002	5,912,179	80,192,563	44,575,160
Africa.....	2,918,253	2,011,172	54,694,597	24,952,780
Total.....	164,038,614	151,236,026	1,831,174,668	1,302,094,786
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	28,782	120,391	543,808	4,670,559
Belgium.....	16,766	129,587	871,583	1,901,021
France.....	7,323,733	6,219,797	83,156,230	53,214,054
Germany.....	254,522	1,389,340	5,150,553	38,209,283
Italy.....	4,783,431	3,780,910	47,416,037	38,430,432
Netherlands.....	3,242,498	2,694,225	33,683,450	19,966,186
Norway.....	374,397	702,175	4,490,714	5,319,738
Russia in Europe.....	720,384	718,133	4,278,773	1,630,506
Spain.....	2,373,304	1,404,819	23,454,738	11,910,714
Sweden.....	1,240,879	900,737	10,217,996	8,405,566
Switzerland.....	1,424,480	1,619,015	16,805,998	14,009,814
United Kingdom.....	18,500,559	19,835,850	237,616,480	181,573,552
Canada.....	22,649,345	17,171,606	160,793,840	118,531,688
Mexico.....	7,416,477	7,958,042	77,715,708	66,804,494
Cuba.....	7,932,430	12,615,539	201,585,080	168,791,364
Argentina.....	5,843,962	7,641,571	90,280,945	68,894,940
Brazil.....	10,955,748	10,873,247	90,763,725	77,430,555
Chile.....	6,731,941	5,541,524	63,126,530	30,372,819
China.....	6,257,735	5,588,860	62,625,227	37,909,381
British East Indies.....	15,772,532	13,115,031	159,716,493	86,901,652
Japan.....	16,478,459	11,031,478	131,249,345	73,784,444
Australia and New Zealand.....	1,190,104	856,683	51,941,653	24,852,930
Philippine Islands.....	4,202,105	4,861,213	25,644,615	18,365,808
Egypt.....	457,809	1,251,858	25,742,484	15,858,722
EXPORTS TO—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	379,868,050	211,759,307	2,759,278,966	1,845,397,271
North America.....	81,426,962	51,599,192	649,015,720	387,715,325
South America.....	18,808,594	16,041,432	158,438,721	102,695,914
Asia.....	20,321,580	9,600,241	267,806,983	99,848,060
Oceanic.....	9,531,816	8,649,693	80,295,492	70,670,419
Africa.....	5,030,406	2,985,056	36,149,738	25,315,134
Total.....	515,007,408	300,654,921	3,950,976,620	2,531,542,123
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....		60,167	68,385	103,501
Belgium.....	4,271,512	2,549,154	20,527,082	16,006,489
Denmark.....	4,762,617	5,918,319	41,199,151	58,721,151
France.....	85,439,969	37,110,313	629,915,057	370,088,450
Germany.....		86,848	1,118,233	11,775,358
Greece.....	2,273,013	1,837,333	25,870,159	21,076,526
Italy.....	30,943,265	32,476,050	201,338,088	182,625,654
Netherlands.....	9,967,415	7,938,124	82,752,387	116,642,235
Norway.....	3,850,532	4,055,246	46,003,200	31,895,027
Russia in Europe.....	59,367,651	15,154,124	235,412,988	74,466,325
Spain.....	4,885,890	2,459,243	41,868,792	30,901,893
Sweden.....	5,107,877	4,872,276	31,705,251	66,573,740
United Kingdom.....	166,692,212	95,334,448	1,374,444,151	848,801,813
Canada.....	52,134,674	31,961,980	425,871,243	241,151,087
Central America.....	4,407,272	3,530,477	33,280,886	26,982,721
Mexico.....	5,559,789	3,645,328	37,433,778	28,841,505
Cuba.....	14,927,735	8,702,870	112,894,201	63,148,365
Argentina.....	5,655,597	6,775,747	56,782,390	37,901,920
Brazil.....	3,940,011	3,948,273	35,266,484	25,015,681
Chile.....	3,757,033	1,874,578	23,145,083	11,970,421
China.....	2,286,093	1,888,231	22,487,498	15,535,382
British East Indies.....	2,691,845	2,047,182	21,028,695	15,219,719
Japan.....	6,924,853	3,322,600	71,831,614	32,000,207
Russia in Asia.....	4,339,158	601,324	128,650,447	22,581,956
Australia and New Zealand.....	7,301,457	6,742,314	62,320,552	48,415,563
Philippine Islands.....	2,114,287	1,862,899	16,821,369	21,420,443
British Africa.....	2,673,710	1,832,499	23,275,801	17,105,109

COTTON SHIPMENTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending October 28, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	10,168	Philadelphia.....	.....	San Francisco.....	12,009
Massachusetts.....	1,676	South Carolina.....	600	Washington.....	.....
Maryland.....	4,036	Virginia.....	10,997	Total.....	183,407
New York.....	8,388	Galveston.....	84,851		
North Carolina.....	5,000	New Orleans.....	45,652		

The exports of 183,407 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 1,755,281 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 127,537 bales for the week and 1,253,198 bales in the cotton year.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Pike, William J.....	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 406, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon..	Dec. 25	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Alhart, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	do.....	Do.
Waddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	do.....	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

The Department of Commerce announces the publication by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey of a new chart, No. 6058, "Yaquina River and approaches," scale 1-20,000 (3.65 inches to the nautical mile), dimensions 26 by 30 inches. Copies of this chart, which replaces No. 6057 and was designed to include Toledo, may be obtained at 30 cents each.

FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Sept. 23.]

There was an increase of \$1,284,880 in the value of the total trade of the Philippine Islands for the month of August, 1916, compared with the corresponding month in 1915. A further comparison of the trade of the islands shows that there was an excess of imports over exports to the value of \$1,200,674 for August, 1915, while during the same month in 1916 there was an excess of exports over imports to the value of \$1,065,880.

The imports for August, 1916, were valued at \$3,813,910, and the exports were \$4,879,790; the imports for August, 1915, were \$4,304,747 and the exports \$3,104,073.

The decline in the imports is accounted for to some degree by the decreased consumption of certain articles on account of the increased cost, growing out of the advanced freight rates, etc. In some degree the decrease shown by the figures is apparent rather than real and does not represent a decrease in the actual consumption during the year. In still other instances, perhaps, the decrease reveals a shortage in the article concerned rather than in the demand for it. At various times during the past year there was a shortage of leather in the Philippines.

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures decreased from \$472,384 for August, 1915, to \$288,259 for the same month in 1916, a loss of \$184,125. The imports of cotton and manufactures decreased from \$795,124 to \$617,400.

The exportation of coconut oil for August, 1916, was nearly double that for the corresponding month of 1915, its value being \$669,761 compared with \$388,150 for August, 1915, and the exports of copra increased from \$145,151 to \$454,517. An increase from \$25,326 to \$144,962 in the exports of embroideries indicates the rapidity with which this industry is growing. The exports of hemp increased from \$1,249,109 for August, 1915, to \$2,107,859 for the same month in 1916. This gain, however, is for the most part accounted for by transportation facilities and an advance in price.

A French organization, recently formed, has adopted a plan to send commercial students to this country, guarantee them employment, and provide them with initial funds. Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz reports. The French Transatlantic Steamship Line will grant low rates to such students.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 406, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Nibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Acids-----	22860	Machinery, shoe-----	22857
Automobiles and accessories-----	22861	Medical supplies, etc-----	22854
Building materials-----	22853	Notions-----	22852
Chemicals-----	22860	Novelties, technical-----	22861
Collars and cuffs, celluloid-----	22854	Oilcloth-----	22854
Dry goods-----	22852	Paper, wrapping and writing-----	22850
Fans-----	22852	Razors, safety-----	22854
Fountain pens-----	22854	Rubber goods-----	22854
Harness materials-----	22857	Shoe materials and tools-----	22857
Hides and skins-----	22857	Sporting goods-----	22854
Hosiery-----	22852	Surgical appliances, etc-----	22854
Hospital supplies-----	22854	Tacks, brass-----	22857
Leather, sole-----	22857	Thermos bottles-----	22854
Linoleum-----	22854	Toilet articles-----	22854
Machinery-----	22858, 22861	Wastes, silk gum-----	22855
Machinery, binding-----	22856	Wearing apparel-----	22852

22852.*—A merchant in Central America is in the market for dry goods and notions, including shirts, underwear, hosiery, gloves, belts, ribbons, and fans, etc. Correspondence in English. References.

22853.*—A railway company in Canada will shortly call for tenders for the construction of a new power house, coaling plant, storage building, and blacksmith shop.

22854.†—Quotations are desired by a firm in Spain on surgical instruments; hospital furniture; electromedical goods; microscopes and microtomes; medical and surgical rubber goods; manicure and pedicure goods; bandages; veterinary instruments; linoleum and oil cloth; rubber overshoes and raincoats; toilet articles of celluloid, ivory, and tortoise shell; sporting goods; rubber heels; safety razors; suspenders and belts; fountain pens; thermos goods; celluloid collars and cuffs; and pocket flash lights (with batteries). Correspondence preferably in Spanish. Reference.

22855.*—A firm of wholesale silk merchants in the United Kingdom would like to communicate with American exporters of silk wastes, known as gum wastes, which must be free from all foreign materials.

22856.*—A leading typographic establishment in northern Brazil is in the market for a binding machine. Catalogues and price lists, etc., desired.

22857.*—A Chinese firm in a foreign colonial possession in the Far East desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of sole leather, chrome hide, and skins; articles for making shoes and harness; iron shoe nails and brass tacks; shoemakers' tools and machines.

22858.†—A business man in France desires to represent American manufacturers of small machinery.

22859.*—A manufacturers' agent in a foreign colonial possession desires to represent American manufacturers of wrapping and writing papers. Initial requirements; 5 tons cheap grade wrapping paper, and 100 reams cheap grade white and fancy writing paper. Correspondence in English.

22860.*—A newly organized chemical company in Norway is in the market for carbolic acid, acetic acid, benzol, phenol, salicylic acid, caustic soda, bichromate of potash and soda, aniline oil and salts, paranitrophenol and paranitrophenol. Correspondence in English. Terms cash against documents.

22861.*—An established firm in Switzerland is desirous of representing American manufacturers of automobiles and accessories and machinery and technical novelties, etc. References.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 258 Washington, D. C., Thursday, November 2 1916

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REMOVAL OF GOODS FROM FRENCH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Oct. 30.]

A ministerial order of October 28 permits the exportation, transit, etc., to the usual allied nations and to the United States of all articles named in the decree of October 26, except oxalic acid, albumen, chlorine compounds, carbon chloride, iron or ordinary steel cutting tools, tools and detached parts therefor, machine parts, and all other articles of special steel except clock makers' tools.

[The list of prohibited exports referred to was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 30, 1916.]

EMPLOYEES OF LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE COMMENDED.

Several employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses were commended by the Secretary of Commerce during the past month for acts of bravery in which assistance was rendered to vessels in distress, or persons were rescued from drowning. The persons commended were:

William J. Tate, keeper of North Landing River Lights, N. C., for assistance rendered the freighter *R. C. Beaman*, which on two occasions was found in a disabled condition in the vicinity of North Landing River Lights, N. C., and for assistance rendered the boat *Muriel Dean*, which was ashore near Long Point, N. C., and to a launch which was in need of repairs.

James Cromley, keeper, and Robert H. Cromley, assistant keeper of Sapelo Light Station, Ga., for assistance rendered the schooner *Perry Selzer*, which was in distress off Sapelo Light Station.

Herman M. Ingalls, commanding lighthouse tender *Zizania*, and Osmond C. Faulkingham, first officer of lighthouse tender *Hibiscus*, for the rescue of two men who had fallen overboard from a wharf at Portland, Me.

Lewis H. Bringlee, keeper, and Joseph Grisillo, second assistant keeper, of Charleston Light Station, S. C., for assistance rendered a fishing boat with two men on board which had drifted on the breakers near Charleston Light Station, and for service rendered in taking 10 fishermen off Folly Island, S. C.

Edward H. Pierce, keeper of Doubling Point Range Light Station, Me., for the rescue from drowning of an insane person who had jumped into the water from a wharf at Bath, Me.

ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN COMMERCE FOR SEPTEMBER.

The usual monthly statement of the foreign trade of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports, by great groups, during the month of September, 1915 and 1916, and the 9 months ended September, are presented in the following statement:

Groups.	Month of September—		9 months ended September—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing....	\$66,314,720	\$50,183,718	\$705,314,468	\$494,932,388
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	22,391,256	22,040,141	179,872,091	180,230,328
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	14,765,299	18,641,718	270,899,790	224,082,155
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	30,499,306	26,639,083	315,848,262	290,487,773
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	28,122,844	23,401,113	264,033,949	214,186,462
Miscellaneous.....	1,935,289	1,621,253	15,006,138	9,484,649
Total imports.....	164,038,614	151,236,028	1,831,174,608	1,302,094,766
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing....	61,694,125	43,747,406	458,857,300	419,034,690
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	35,146,441	35,713,027	294,095,820	369,259,128
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	53,742,732	41,255,087	479,101,684	401,886,924
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	91,545,006	42,379,413	644,592,102	334,748,979
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	256,819,132	122,354,881	1,903,086,033	868,163,480
Miscellaneous.....	10,477,064	19,200,861	67,102,376	96,261,300
Total domestic exports.....	609,322,500	295,650,685	3,006,736,315	2,480,356,880
Foreign merchandise exported.....	5,683,108	5,004,256	44,220,305	42,186,734
Total exports.....	615,007,408	300,654,941	3,060,976,620	2,521,542,133

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" in September, 1916, were: Horses, \$6,794,606; mules, \$3,574,188; and seeds, \$91,105; and for 9 months ended September 30, 1916: Horses, \$45,933,702; mules, \$19,047,137; and seeds, \$1,864,637.

FREIGHT-RATE CHANGES IN NEW ZEALAND'S COMMERCE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 2.]

New rates from New Zealand to London and the Atlantic coast of the United States have been announced by the shipping companies. They are effective from October 1, 1916. The new figures are:

Articles.	London.	New York.	Articles.	London.	New York.
Greasy wool.....pound..	\$0.04	\$0.07	Flax.....long ton..	\$48.06	\$54.87
Scoured wool.....do....	.05	.07	Tow.....do.....	53.26	71.17
Slip wool.....do.....	.05	.06	Copra.....do.....	36.49	44.89
Tallow.....long ton..	29.19	37.19	Kauri gum.....do.....	25.54	35.44

The figures quoted for wool are not the fixed rates to New York, since there is an embargo on wool at present, and no wool is offered for shipment for that port, but it is the figure given out as about the rate to be charged in case wool can be exported to the United States.

To these rates must be added primeage of 10 per cent.

INSURANCE COMPANIES IN GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens.]

The general supervision of domestic and foreign insurance companies operating in the Hellenic Kingdom is in the hands of the Insurance Bureau of the Ministry of Finance, which supplies forms each year on which the required returns relating to gross profits, net profits, etc., are made. No Government publication contains statistics of insurance in Greece, but facts obtained at the offices of the various companies have been supplemented by data from the Insurance Bureau.

The life-insurance and marine-insurance companies that were operating in Greece in 1915, the amounts of premiums collected, and the taxes paid to the Government, in drachmas of 19.3 cents each, were:

Companies.	Premiums.	Taxes.	Companies.	Premiums.	Taxes.
LIFE INSURANCE.			MARINE INSURANCE.		
Union and Spanish Phoenix.....	<i>Drachmas.</i> 610,000	<i>Drachmas.</i> 1,220	Universal Union.....	<i>Drachmas.</i> 16,626	499
Adriatic.....	206,500	413	Adriatic.....	91,599	2,750
Anatolie-Orient.....	3,044,837	6,139	Ober Rhine.....	27,506	810
Austrian Phoenix.....	15,000		Agrippine.....	26,180	786
Assicu. Generale di Trieste.....	941,450	30	German Insurance Co.....	3,303	99
Gresham.....	1,049,500	1,873	Duesseldorf.....	16,150	485
National.....	644,000	2,229	Mannheim.....	334,173	10,025
Union.....	73,244	1,342	Providenzia.....	23,834	721
French Phoenix.....	385,000	147	Maritime Insurance.....	181,043	5,238
Total.....	6,970,131	770	Baloise.....	62,099	1,800
Assicu. Generale di Trieste (Transport Liability).....	-	14,163	Helveta.....	493,761	14,816
	219,955	6,905	London Assurance.....	84,066	2,523
			North British.....	10,433	312
			Total.....	1,370,879	40,924

Basis of Taxation for Various Classes.

The basis of the tax on premiums collected from the life insurance companies is one-fifth of 1 per cent. The basis of marine insurance taxation is 3 per cent. Fire insurance companies pay a tax of 3 per cent on all premiums collected and an additional tax of 2 per cent on premiums for the upkeep of the fire brigade, which is a Federal organization, with a personnel composed of citizens called for military service and assigned to that duty. The companies are permitted to increase their premium charges to an amount sufficient to cover this tax. The following fire insurance companies are now operating in Greece:

Companies.	Premiums, 1915.	Companies.	Premiums, 1915.
<i>Drachmas.</i>		<i>Drachmas.</i>	
Alliance.....	85,510	Commercial Union.....	167,014
Adriatic.....	287,338	Union.....	300,097
Austrian Phoenix.....	117,392	Baloise.....	78,184
North British.....	85,742	Mannheim.....	89,505
French Phoenix.....	82,634	Total.....	3,135,439
Assicurazione Generale di Trieste.....	656,578		
"Hethniki" National.....	1,185,495		

No company in Greece writes unemployment insurance. No provision is made for insurance against old age, for compulsory health insurance, or for workmen's compensation.

Marine insurance companies operating in Greece pay a license tax of 1,000 drachmas per annum; all other companies pay 1,500 drachmas.

[A copy of the Greek laws relating to taxes on the profits of limited companies, including laws relating to the profits of insurance companies, licenses, etc., and a statement of the Anatolie Insurance Co., of Athens, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 79202.]

MARKET FOR BUTTONS IN FRENCH WEST INDIES.

[Consul Henry F. Wilcox, Guadeloupe.]

There is a small but steady demand in Guadeloupe for the common grades of buttons of bone, imitation mother-of-pearl, metal, etc., such as are usually sold in the small dry goods stores of the United States. No buttons are manufactured in the island and the greater part of the supply is received from France.

It is probable that American buttons would be imported into this colony in much greater quantities were it not for the fact that French buttons are not subject to the same duties as are those from other countries. The reduction in favor of French buttons varies from \$0.87 to \$131.31 per 100 pounds net, according to size and material. So long as this preferential duty is in force there will be very little chance for American exporters of buttons to compete with the manufacturers in France.

The button trade is entirely in the hands of the retail dry goods merchants, who as a rule obtain their supplies through purchasing agents in France. These agents submit samples of fancy buttons whenever the styles change, but the staple buttons are usually ordered from catalogues furnished by the agents.

The usual term of credit before the war was 90 days. Since that time, however, the manufacturers have demanded cash with orders.

[A list of merchants in Guadeloupe who import and sell buttons may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81472.]

SALE OF HERRING BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Oct. 19.]

Under the arrangements which the British Government has concluded lately with Scandinavian fishing interests, whereby practically the whole catch of herring is taken under control by this country, large quantities of fish have become available for export under certain conditions. The management of the sale of this fish rests with the Restriction of Enemy Supplies Department, Waterloo Place, London, S. W. It is understood that toward the middle of November this department will be prepared to make sales of "sloe fulls" to foreign buyers. The department has now on hand a quantity of last year's Norwegian herring, but these would not be suitable for the American market. The same department now has herring caught in the waters of Scotland and Iceland and cured during the past summer, which are stated to be suitable for American trade. The last prices of Iceland herring were 60 shillings (\$14.60) per barrel f. o. b. Scotland, and it is suggested that "sloe fulls" are likely to be about 60 shillings f. o. b. Norwegian ports this season.

TO OBTAIN BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF PROPERTIES OF ZINC.

Investigations of the properties of various materials, including metals, have been features of recent work at the United States Bureau of Standards, and one of the most important of these was a study of zinc. The bureau recognizes that there is insufficient knowledge of the properties of this material and has undertaken work which it proposes to have carried out with thoroughness and completeness. Specimens have been prepared for tests in tension, torsion, transverse, cold bend, compression, shearing, and hardness.

Activities in numerous other lines are of interest to industrial organizations. Considerable progress has been made in the investigation of testing methods for galvanized material which has been carried out in cooperation with the American Society for Testing Materials, while several manufacturers are furnishing the samples.

Study of Ingots and Investigation of Rails.

Progress has been made in the preparation of the text for the joint research with the Pennsylvania Railroad on ingots and their characteristics as shown in the quality of rails made from several types and methods of manufacture. It is also stated that an investigation on rails has progressed to such a point that the reports on the Great Northern Railroad and Pennsylvania Railroad rails which have failed by transverse fissure will be finished shortly, when the chemical work is done. The completion of these reports will make it possible for the redesigning of the alternating stress machine for rail investigation to be pushed to completion.

Work that has been undertaken in connection with ceramics included the study of domestic clays, in making graphite crucibles; porcelains, particularly pyrometer tubes; silicon brick, the investigation with standard brands of fire brick for the Refractories Manufacturers' Association; the optical-glass investigation; the use of hydrated lime in Portland-cement concrete; and the terra-cotta investigation conducted for the National Terra Cotta Society.

The fusible-plug investigation has included the making up of a large series of tin alloys to demonstrate the effect on the melting point of various qualities and kinds of impurities, as well as the effects on tin purity of the use of brass and bronze castings, and modifications in manufacturing methods. Progress has been made also in other investigations, including the study of methods for determining oxides and gases in steel.

Tests of Strength of Steel Columns.

Testing of the two series of columns of the American Railway Engineering Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers was temporarily interrupted with the object of studying the data already obtained and making further supplementary tests upon specimens cut from the columns. A paper on the strength of steel columns in tests has been completed, and it may be published as a technologic paper.

A steam vulcanizer has been installed in the experimental rubber laboratory of the bureau for the purpose of vulcanizing rubber tubing. A test of unusual importance was made in the case of 32 inner tubes for automobile tires submitted by the Post Office Department. The results of these tests are to be made the basis for awarding the contracts.

Other materials which were investigated by the bureau were clay, magnesite, dolomite mixtures, fire brick, building brick, samples of cement for various contracts, including the Panama contract, leather, lubricating oils, mechanical rubber goods, and paper.

INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES IN SWEDEN.

[American Minister Ira N. Morris, Stockholm, Oct. 4.]

The following table shows the average prices of provisions in 44 places in Sweden during July, 1914 and 1915, and June and July, 1916, together with the percentages of increase or decrease between July, 1914, and July, 1916, and between July, 1915, and July, 1916. The prices are given in Swedish öre, 100 of which are equivalent to 1 Swedish crown, valued at \$0.268. The equivalents of the quantities used are as follows: One liter=1.06 quarts; 1 kilo=2.2046 pounds; 1 hectoliter=2.8 bushels.

Articles.	July, 1914.	July, 1915.	June, 1916.	July, 1916.	Increase (+) or decrease (-).	
					July, 1914, to July, 1916.	July, 1915, to July, 1916.
Milk:	Öre.	Öre.	Öre.	Öre.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Not skimmed.....liter..	15	16	18	19	+ 26.7	+ 18.8
Hand skimmed.....do....	8	9	10	10	+ 25.0	+ 11.1
Separated.....do.....	6	7	8	8	+ 33.3	+ 14.3
Butter:						
Table (dairy).....kilo....	223	281	304	304	+ 30.5	+ 3.2
Kitchen (country).....do....	210	252	287	286	+ 36.2	+ 13.5
Margarin, vegetable.....do....	138	167	196	206	+ 49.3	+ 23.4
Eggs, fresh.....score.....	127	172	197	200	+ 46.0	+ 16.2
Potatoes, old.....5 liters..	32	41	31	31	- 3.1	- 24.4
Do.....hectoliter.....						
	474	474	468	468		
Peas, yellow.....kilo....	30	59	84	84	+ 80.0	- 8.5
Beans, brown.....do.....	46	70	107	103	+ 124.8	+ 54.3
Flour, best Swedish:						
Wheat.....do.....	31	43	38	33	+ 22.6	+ 11.6
Rye.....do.....	21	34	28	28	+ 33.3	+ 17.6
Rye, sifted.....do.....	27	41	35	25	+ 29.6	+ 14.6
Oats, steam-prepared.....do....	36	52	49	50	+ 38.9	- 3.8
Rice, best.....do.....	39	47	51	51	+ 30.8	+ 8.5
Rye bread:						
Coarse.....do.....	41	56	52	52	+ 26.8	- 7.1
Soft—						
Sweet.....do.....	38	50	48	49	+ 28.9	+ 2.0
Sour.....do.....	31	39	37	37	+ 19.4	- 5.1
Wheat bread:						
Rusks, round, ordinary.....do....	75	99	90	89	+ 18.7	- 1.1
Soft—						
Baked with water.....do....	44	55	53	53	+ 20.5	- 3.6
Baked with milk.....do.....	59	68	65	66	+ 11.9	- 2.9
Beef:						
Fresh, roast.....do.....	118	155	189	208	+ 76.7	+ 24.2
Soup meat.....do.....	97	132	166	181	+ 86.6	+ 37.1
Veal roast, fat.....do.....	131	164	197	213	+ 62.6	+ 29.9
Veal, young.....do.....	60	90	118	126	+ 52.6	+ 40.0
Mutton:						
Fresh, roast.....do.....	136	171	221	230	+ 69.1	+ 54.5
Salt.....do.....	121	143	189	190	+ 62.0	+ 38.0
Pork:						
Fresh.....do.....	128	197	221	225	+ 75.8	+ 14.2
Salt.....do.....	135	204	233	231	+ 74.8	+ 18.7
He ring, salt.....do.....	43	48	93	101	+ 134.9	+ 119.4
Coffee (not roasted), Famos.....do....	157	162	180	191	+ 21.7	+ 17.9
Sugar, lump.....do.....	64	66	68	65	+ 6.2	+ 3.0
Petroleum, water-white.....liter..	20	22	26	27	+ 35.0	+ 22.7
Wood:						
Not sawed.....cord....	2,000	2,820	3,750	3,980	+ 53.1	+ 41.1
Pine sawed.....do.....	2,090	2,890	3,030	3,280	+ 54.5	+ 42.0
Peat.....100 kilos..	205	272	370	375	+ 52.9	+ 27.9
Coal:						
Anthracite (walnut).....hectoliter..	192	299	502	719	+ 83.4	+ 47.9
English household, kindling, hectoliter..	229	358	549	599	+ 148.5	+ 38.1
Coke, gas.....hectoliter..	145	216	285	295	+ 103.4	+ 36.1

SALE OF CANADIAN POTATOES IN CUBA.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 20.]

The special representative of New Brunswick in Cuba, in a recent report on the potato trade in that country, states that considerable shipments have arrived from eastern Canada of new crop potatoes, shipments being made by way of Boston. Although early for arrival in Cuba, the writer states they are well ripened and of good color. Despite still heavier arrivals from the United States, the price for Canadian potatoes during the last week of September, 1916, was \$4.20 to \$4.30 per sack of 180 pounds, or per barrel of 160 pounds, c. i. f. Habana.

The writer suggests that each lot of potatoes should be distinctively marked with a certain combination of letters or figures not less than 5 inches high, and that when secondhand sacks with sugar-mill marks are used, they should be filled after being turned inside out, so that the old marks will not confuse those unloading various consignments.

Preference is stated to be given to Early Rose Canadian potatoes for seed, of which there is a demand for about 80,000 barrels within the next six weeks. This variety for seed is selling in Cuba at about \$4.75 to \$5.25 per barrel, or from 50 cents to \$1 per barrel more than ordinary table stock.

COMMUNITY FARMS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 20.]

Canada expects a stream of immigrants at the close of the European war, and the government of New Brunswick already is preparing to provide suitable settlement areas for those who may elect to make their homes in this Province. A provincial advisory board has been created, and the members already have made a tour of inspection of certain areas deemed suitable for subdivision into small agricultural holdings. Two experts from the Dominion Agricultural Department have arrived in New Brunswick and are inspecting the districts provisionally chosen, with a view to determining their fitness for settlement.

To Be Laid Out According to Special Plan.

The New Brunswick Government proposes that when a block of land is finally accepted, it shall be surveyed and laid out according to a special plan. The railroad will pass through it diagonally, and two main roads will cross it at right angles to each other. The railroad will serve as a base line for lots, with a corresponding line for the base on the other side of the block. Every farm will commence at the main road and run back to one of the base lines. No farm will have land on both sides of the track.

Each block or community is to have at its central point a model farm, managed by a practical farmer placed there by the Government. This farm will produce the seeds required by the surrounding farmers. Means of cooperation in buying and selling are to be provided.

The land in each community will be divided into sections ranging from 10 to 100 acres each. The Government proposes to sell these farms at actual cost, on easy terms. Each purchaser will be re-

quired to pay 10 per cent down, and will be given 20 years to clear the remainder. The Government will erect a house and a barn and dig a well on each farm. The purchaser will furnish his own implements, with the exception of certain special appliances to be shared by the whole community and loaned by the central model farm.

To Clear Only Portion of Each Farm.

The Government intends to clear only a portion of each farm, allowing the settler to sell the wood from the remainder. The use of oxen for plowing and other heavy farm work is to be encouraged.

The three areas now being inspected are all within the limits of the Moncton consular district, two in Westmoreland County, and one in Kent County. The largest of the three contains 48 square miles of territory. The others are only slightly smaller.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended October 28:

Canned Fruits, Preserves, and Jellies (Farmers' Bulletin 203).—Suggestions for selecting various fruits and vegetables for canning and preserving, with numerous recipes for household methods of preparation. Price, 5 cents.

Frames as a Factor in Truck Growing (Farmers' Bulletin 460).—Illustrated text on the raising, under sash or cloth covers, of lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, parsley, beets, and similar crops. Price, 5 cents.

Laws Relating to Fur-Bearing Animals, 1916 (Farmers' Bulletin 783).—Summary of laws in the United States and Canada relating to protection, propagation, and bounties. Price, 5 cents.

Commercial Education (Education Bureau Bulletin 25, 1916).—Describes the papers read at the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress, giving outline of what the leading schools and universities of the country are doing in the various phases of business education. Price, 10 cents.

REQUISITION OF INVENTIONS IN UNITED KINGDOM.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, Sept. 15.]

A British Order in Council of September 7, 1916, authorizes the Government to require the communication of particulars relating to inventions or processes of manufacture or manufactured articles which may facilitate the production of war material. It is further provided, however, that no communication so made shall prejudice any right of the inventor or owner to apply subsequently for a patent for the invention.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN FILMS IN JAPANESE THEATERS.

[Vice Consul E. R. Dickover, Kobe, Sept. 25.]

The Kōbē consular district has between 50 and 60 motion-picture theaters. Their supplies are obtained from two exchanges—the Tennen Shoku Katsudo Shashin Kabushiki Kaisha (Natural Color Moving-Picture Corporation), with the head office at Suyeyoshi-bashi 3 chrome, Shinsai-bashi, Nishi-iru, Osaka, and the Nippon Katsudo Shashin Kabushiki Kaisha (Japanese Moving-Picture Corporation), with the head office at Kamimaki-cho, Nihonbashi-ku, Tokyo. These two firms import all the foreign films used in this district, and control the sale of films manufactured in Japan. They also import and sell the projectors and other instruments used in exhibiting moving pictures.

Majority Show Both Foreign and Domestic Films.

There are no low-price, continuous-performance motion-picture theaters in this district. Ordinarily only one performance of 6 to 8 reels, lasting about three hours, is given each day. The prices of admission vary from 5 to 30 cents, depending upon the seats taken. Some of the theaters show a complete program of Japanese films and other a complete program of foreign films, but the great majority of the houses combine the two classes in about equal proportions. The theaters which cater to the laboring class make a specialty of native films, while those patronized by the better class of Japanese and by foreigners exhibit either a combination of foreign and domestic films or only foreign films. The program is changed every week or 10 days.

Most of the foreign photoplays are French, Italian, or English dramas or American comedies. Very few of the better grade of American plays have been seen here. The exchanges explain this fact by stating that European films are cheaper, and that they can not afford to pay the high rates charged for the Japanese rights to good American plays. A tendency to exhibit the serial adventure films so popular in America has developed recently, however.

Plays of Adventure with "Thrills" Popular.

Detective plays with plenty of hidden staircases, airships in action, "slap-stick" comedies, and plays of adventure with many "thrills" are demanded. The "sob plays" also are well patronized by the Japanese women. Society and problem plays are not in demand.

American exporters will not be likely to succeed in any attempts they may make to sell films direct to the theaters. The motion-picture houses are usually controlled by the film exchanges, and they must take the films that are given them. The fact that titles, subtitles, leaders, and inserts in the foreign films are printed in English results in a demand for translations and explanations of the action. These are made by men in the exchanges, and are read by a sort of lecturer who, standing beside the screen, translates the action as the play proceeds. It would be impossible for each small theater to employ a man conversant with English and with foreign customs to interpret each play.

Export Business Possible with Foreign Supervision.

The films manufactured in this district are not likely to find appreciative audiences in America. The photography is often poor,

and the action is slow, on account of long intervals during which the actors converse. Films produced here under foreign supervision, however, probably would prove acceptable, as the beautiful scenery and many charming customs of the Japanese could be utilized to great advantage.

As the exchanges do not stick to any one film service, but buy their films all over the world, it would not pay to advertise heavily in the local papers for the sake of the one or two films that might be sold each month. Advertising posters for use in front of the theaters are of little value, as the exchanges furnish with the films hand-painted posters in the Japanese language. Photographs of the actors and of scenes in the play are used to some extent. No projectors or other supplies for the exhibition of motion pictures are produced in this district.

The import duty on films is \$3.10 per pound, including the inner packing, if developed. The duty on moving-picture projectors (cinematographs) and on moving-picture cameras is 50 per cent ad valorem.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Pfife, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 26	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon ..	Dec. 25	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Albert, Tailbot J.	Hanover, Germany....	...do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.	Quebec, Ontario.	Dec. 30	Do.
Waddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece. ....	...do....	Do.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China. ....	...do....	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

LATER FIGURES ON THE JAPANESE RICE CROP.

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 4.]

Supplementing my previous report [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 17], official estimates up to September 23 give the probable rice crop of Japan for 1916 as 56,377,254 koku (288,651,540 bushels). This is above the average by 4,266,762 koku (21,845,821 bushels) and is larger than any rice crop for the last 10 years except the record crop of 1914, which amounted to 57,006,541 koku (291,873,490 bushels).

PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA.

[Summary of article in Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 23.]

In western Siberia, which stretches from the Ural Mountains to the section east of the Yenisei River, trade is more or less subject to the influences of European Russia, through which in normal times foreign supplies are imported. The central zone of Siberia, consisting of the territory around Irkutsk, is important chiefly from the point of view of mineral development. The distance from export markets limits the yield of agricultural and other products, and this district does not offer as good prospects for future trade as other sections of the country. The eastern part of Asiatic Russia, beyond Lake Baikal, is generally known as the Russian Far East, and the trade in this territory is a specialized business distinct from that of the rest of the Empire. The bulk of the supplies for this region is imported through Vladivostok.

General Description of Western Siberia.

Western Siberia is the most important section agriculturally and is the most thickly settled. Out of a total population for Siberia of 11,500,000, nearly 9,000,000 are settled on the plains of western Siberia and in the foothills of the Altai. These plains stretch across the continent for almost 1,200 miles without a break to the Altai Mountains and are watered by the great rivers of Siberia—the Ob, the Irtysh, and the Yenisei—which flow in a north and south direction to the Arctic Ocean.

The Altai Mountains cross Siberia from southwest to northeast, forming the northwest edge of the great central Asiatic tableland. In the north the plains of western Siberia are covered with a forest belt, rich in unexploited timber and fur-bearing animals, but consisting largely of impassable swamp. South of this forest zone extends between latitudes 55 and 57 the black-earth region of Siberia, the section most attractive for agricultural colonization. Farther to the south are the dry steppes, which are inhabited chiefly by nomadic Tartar tribes with large flocks of cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. In the foothills of the Altai and at higher altitudes there are also excellent agricultural lands and pastures of alpine meadow, including an area of black-earth belt that is probably the richest in Siberia. It has been estimated that the black-earth zone of the western Siberian plains and the foothills of the Altai farther east could, if properly cultivated, support five times the present population of European Russia.

Siberian Development Halted by Transportation Difficulties.

The economic development of western Siberia since the completion of the Transsiberian Railway has been notable. During the 10 years preceding the outbreak of the war the emigration to Siberia from European Russia was proceeding at the rate of nearly 300,000 persons per annum. This great influx of people naturally tended to enhance the growth of the riches of the country from year to year. The result was that the surplus of agricultural products available for distribution on the export and European Russian markets greatly increased and before the war had already attained large dimensions. The exports of butter from western Siberia, for example, which began in 1897, amounted in 1913 to over 178,000,000 pounds.

The inadequate transportation facilities have made it possible to ship abroad from Siberia only high-priced products of small bulk, such as butter. Great difficulties have sometimes been experienced in marketing surplus grain and local prices have sunk below cost. The transsiberian main line and steamer services on the principal rivers were long the only means of transportation, and settlement was confined to a narrow territory along the railway and the river banks. The development of the agricultural resources of this region, as well as the rich stores of gold, silver, copper, iron, and coal, has been awaiting the construction of branch railway lines.

Railroads Recently Completed or Approaching Completion.

The Tyumen-Omsk line was constructed before the war and the double-tracking of the transsiberian has been completed from Omsk to the junction with the Amur Railway. The Amur Railway is built along the border of Russian Territory adjoining Manchuria and, with the Ussuri Railway from Khabarovsk to Vladivostok, provides an all-Russian route to the Pacific as an alternative to the older route from Kuenga eastward over the Chinese Eastern Railway.

During the present year three new important railway lines have been opened for traffic and the construction of a fourth will soon be completed, as follows:

(1) The Altai Railway (514 miles) runs south from Novonikolaievsk to Semipalatinsk, an important trade point on the upper Irtysh River.

(2) The Kulundin Railway (200 miles) runs south from Tatarskoi, on the Siberian Railway 120 miles east of Omsk, to Slavgorod.

(3) The Kolchugino Railway (124 miles), from the Siberian Railway to Kolchugino, serves the Kuznetsk coal fields and a region rich in other minerals. Concessions for 200 miles of other lines have been granted to a private syndicate, which has also obtained authority for establishing a large metallurgical and coke factory near Kuznetsk.

(4) The Minusinsk Railway (276 miles), shortly to be completed, will run south from Achinsk, on the Siberian line, to Minusinsk, on the upper Yenisei River, traversing a region with a fertile soil and valuable deposits of coal and iron.

Siberian Railroad Projects Covering Next Five Years.

The following railroads in Siberia are to be constructed, if possible, by 1922, and at any rate not later than 1927:

(1) The South Siberian line (1,000 miles) will run from Orsk, in Orenburg Government, European Russia, through Akmolinsk to Slavgorod, the present terminus of the Kulundin Railway, and Barnaul, where it will connect with the Altai Railway and the Kuznetsk-Barnaul branch of the Kolchugino Railway. It will be extended later to Minusinsk. The railway will provide an outlet for the agricultural products of the Kirghiz Steppes, the upper Irtysh and Ob Rivers, and the foothills of the Altai, and for the copper, lead, and zinc of the Semipalatinsk and Akmolinsk districts.

(2) The Akmolinsk-Spassky Copper Mines Railroad will connect the proposed South Siberian trunk line with mineral areas to the south.

(3) The Slavgorod-Semipalatinsk-Verny line (1,000 miles). Verny promises to be the trade center for an extensive district and also the

emporium for trade with inner Mongolia. A railway is already being constructed to Verny from the Tashkent Railway in Russian Turkestan. Rail connection with western Siberia should therefore render possible the exchange of Siberian grain and other products for the semitropical products of Turkestan.

(4) The Petropavlovsk-Kokchetav Railroad (100 miles) will run south from the Siberian to Kokchetav.

(5) and (6) The Kolchugino-Kuznetsk-Telebesse and Kuznetsk-Barnaul lines are projected extensions of the Kolchugino Railway.

(7) The Ekaterinburg-Sinarskaya and Shadrinsk-Kurgan lines.

(8) The Achinsk-Yeniseisk Railroad, running north from the Trans-Siberian to Yeniseisk, will serve rich agricultural districts.

(9) The Lena Railway, from the Transsiberian line to the head of navigation on the Lena, will afford rail connection with the Lena gold fields.

Some of these railroads are to be built by the Government and for others concessions are to be granted to private concerns. It is required that the equipment be purchased, so far as possible, in Russia, but it will be impossible for Russian firms to supply all the materials necessary and a large amount will have to be imported.

Plans for Refrigerating Plants and Grain Elevators.

Additional cold-storage plants and grain elevators are other essentials to Siberia's development, and plans are being made for their construction. A large refrigerating plant has been constructed by a private concern at Kurgan, but additional facilities are necessary. The Commission on Cold Storage recently held a meeting at Ekaterinburg and decided to submit to the Duma a plan for the establishment of cold-storage plants at central points throughout western Siberia and for the provision of more refrigerator cars on the railways. Several points in western Siberia have also been selected as suitable centers for grain elevators, concessions for which will be granted by the Imperial State Bank.

Prospective Demand for Manufactures—Separate Representation for Siberia.

The provision of more adequate transportation facilities will result in more advanced methods of exploiting the country's agricultural, mineral, forest, and fishery resources. The gold yield, it is thought, will be doubled, and the iron and steel industry will yield during the first seven years about 960,000 tons of iron annually. With this development would be established specialized industries catering to the growing demand for manufactured goods, and the equipment for these factories would have to be imported. Western Siberia should offer a growing market for finished manufactures also, which must in most cases be imported.

A large share of the trade of western Siberia is controlled by European Russian houses, which purchase in Moscow the foreign supplies required for their branches in various centers. There is a tendency, however, toward the establishment of strong local independent firms ordering their requirements of foreign goods direct. For most lines of trade a foreign firm is therefore advised to establish an agency for this territory apart from its representation in European Russia.

Trade Methods—Present and Prospective Needs.

Stocks of all sorts of imported goods are depleted and prices are very high. A considerable amount of Japanese and Swedish products are being shipped to Siberia. These countries are making every effort to have their goods known and connections established so that their firms shall be in a strong position when normal trade is resumed. The execution of a few trial orders, even if small, under the present difficult conditions, would go far toward establishing permanent connections.

The following goods may be mentioned as among those for which the demand is great: Tools, builders' hardware, electric-light fittings, enameled ironware, hand pumps, razors, knitted goods, hosiery, handkerchiefs, paper, and stationery. The possibility of supplying machinery and equipment in connection with the following undertakings warrants careful study and, if possible, personal investigation: Construction of railways, grain elevators, refrigerator plants, railway-car shops, flour mills, leather factories, meat-canning factories, ironworks, and coal and other mining equipment.

AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY AT LYON SAMPLE FAIR.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, Oct. 11.]

Arrangements have been completed by the American consulate for the rental of a large booth at the coming sample fair at Lyon. It is urged that manufacturers send immediately several copies of their catalogues addressed to the American consul at Lyon. In order that these may be promptly classified and arranged they should be forwarded at the earliest possible moment. Catalogues printed in the French language, with weights and measures expressed in the metric system, are preferred. Such publications will be of great benefit to prospective purchasers and will expedite the work of the clerks detailed by the consulate to assist in translations.

It would be advisable to inclose business cards in order that interested visitors may take away with them the names and addresses of firms.

[Statements regarding the plans for the second sample fair at Lyon were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 22 and Sept. 1, 1916.]

TRANSPORTATION OF PULP WOOD IN CANADA.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Oct. 13.]

Large quantities of pulp wood were cut last winter along the line of the Canadian Government Railway in the Province of New Brunswick. To move this stock special cars are required, as the loading is frequently done by conveyers and the ordinary box car is not suitable. The Moncton shops were accordingly given an order to remodel 175 box cars and to convert them into pulp-wood cars. This was done by removing the roofs from the requisite number of bad-order cars and fitting running boards and handrailings for the protection of the trainmen. These cars were thoroughly overhauled and repaired before being replaced in the service.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Line-throwing guns, No. 3755.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until November 15, 1916, for 10 line-throwing guns. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

Veterinary supplies, No. 3756.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until November 3, 1916, for furnishing acetic acid, areca nut, farriers' instrument cases, flaxseed meal, sulphate of quinine, sulphate of sodium, staphylosero-bacterin, in syringes, and dog worm remedy.

Vessel, No. 3757.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 22, 1916, for the sale to the Government of a vessel of American registry suitable for use by the Naval Militia of Illinois. Forms of proposals and further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Ventilating systems, No. 3758.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington D. C., until November 20, 1916, for three ventilating systems, including blowers, motors, plenum chambers, ventilators, air ducts, and accessories, in Buildings Nos. 17, 25, and 26, at the United States Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Plans and specifications may be obtained from the Bureau of Yards and Docks or from the commandant of the navy yard named.

Remodeling of customhouse, No. 3759.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 17, 1916, for the remodeling of the United States customhouse at New Orleans, La. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the superintendent of construction at the customhouse, New Orleans, La., or from the above-named office.

Planting trees, shrubs, etc., No. 3760.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 22, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal buildings in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, New Mexico, and Colorado, in accordance with plans and specifications, copies of which may be obtained upon application to the respective custodians of the buildings or at the above-named office.

Motor-dredge tender, No. 3761.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wilmington, N. C., until December 1, 1916, for the construction of motor-dredge tender *Mantco*. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Planting trees, shrubs, etc., No. 3762.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 30, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of Federal buildings in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Michigan, in accordance with plans and specifications, copies of which may be obtained on application to the custodians of the respective buildings or to the above-named office.

Lighting fixtures, No. 3763.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 24, 1916, for furnishing and installing lighting fixtures in the United States post-office buildings at Anoka, Minn.; Antigo, Wis.; Arkadelphia, Ark.; Attleboro, Mass.; Brenham, Tex.; Ellensburg, Wash.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Greenwich, Conn.; Humboldt, Tenn.; Norton, Va.; Ridgeway, Pa.; and Valley City, N. Dak. Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C.

Construction, alterations, etc., No. 3764.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 29, 1916, for the construction of mezzanine floors and certain alterations, etc., at the United States post office and courthouse, Philadelphia, Pa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Philadelphia, Pa., or at the Office of the Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: *Reported by American consular officers; †Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Apples	22871	Hardware, light	22868
Automobiles	22865	Hosiery	22862, 22874
Cash boxes	22872	Jewelry, cheap	22874
Chemicals	22870	Leather goods	22862
Coffee mills	22872	Molds, cement	22860
Combs	22862, 22874	Notions	22862, 22874
Cotton piece goods	22863	Plated ware	22862
Cream of tartar substitute	22866	Safes, steel	22872
Crockery and glassware	22872	Shoe fasteners	22862
Drugs	22870	Stepladders	22872
Embroideries	22874	Steel lath	22867
Gelatine	22873	Store fixtures	22872
Gloves	22874	Toys	22862
Garters	22874	Underwear	22862
Haberdashery	22864, 22874	Wearing apparel for women	22862, 22864
Handkerchiefs	22862		

22862.†—An import house in Chile is in the market for hosiery, underwear, combs, and hairpins, silk topcoats and wrappers for women, fasteners for shoes, dolls, toys, imitation plated gift articles, pocketbooks, cardcases, hand bags, children's suits, and handkerchiefs. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

22863.*—An established firm in Norway desires to represent American manufacturers of cotton piece goods, of the kind used for workmen's overalls.

22864.†—A business man from France who is now in the United States desires to enter into commercial relations with manufacturers of haberdashery goods and wearing apparel for women. References.

22865.*—An automobile dealer in Spain is desirous of purchasing American automobiles. Correspondence in Spanish is preferred.

22866.†—A company in the United Kingdom, manufacturing malt products, wants to purchase cream of tartar substitute. Cash against documents in New York.

22867.†—A general contractor in a foreign colonial possession desires catalogues, prices, etc., of steel lath for concrete work.

22868.†—The representative of an Italian firm now in the United States wishes to represent American manufacturers of light hardware. Correspondence in English. References.

22869.†—A firm in Colombia would like to secure the names of manufacturers of pillar moldings and molds for decorations of cement.

22870.*—A business man in Central America desires to secure the agency for the West Indies and Central America for drugs and chemicals. Correspondence in English. References.

22871.*—A man in Canada is in the market for three or four carloads of apples, such as Baldwins, Northern Spy, Russets, and Greenings. Reference.

22872.*—A wholesale merchant in East Africa desires catalogues with prices of medium grades of crockery, china and glassware, coffee mills (hand), cash boxes, steel safes, stepladders, and store fixtures.

22873.*—A firm in Brazil desires to get in touch with American exporters of gelatin. Correspondence in Portuguese or French.

22874.*—A firm in Russia desires to communicate with American manufacturers of hosiery, gloves, garters, collars, cuffs, neckties, embroideries, combs, pins, needles, buttons, and cheap jewelry.

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SUCCESSFUL GRAIN CONGRESS HELD AT LYON.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, Sept. 30.]

The thirty-seventh Lyon grain congress, held September 25 and 26, has been voted the most important of the entire series. The idea of holding an annual conference of grain interests originated with the leading commercial publication of Lyon, and it has always attracted attention because of the importance of its deliberations.

Other grain conferences are held in France, notably those at Dijon and Nancy, but because of the early dates at which they take place, these are not so important as the one at Lyon, where samples of the last crop are shown and prices established. It is for this reason that buyers await the annual grain congress here before placing orders.

All parts of France are represented at the conference, which usually begins on the large avenue just outside the Bourse, and concludes at a large meeting held in the offices of the Stock Exchange. This year's congress was the third held in Lyon during the present war, and its great success was due to the large number of buyers present. Unlike other congresses, no representatives from the neutral nations were present.

The discussions, which lasted two days, brought out many important facts concerning crop conditions in various sections of the country.

Market Sought for Tropical Woods.

A Venezuelan business man informs an American consul that he is in a position to offer large quantities of cedar, mahogany, divi-divi, Brazil wood, and other native woods. He also wishes to learn if there is a market in the United States for crude pyrolignic acid and, if so, the price in New York and the proper method of packing. The inquirer's address can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 80958.

EXTENSION OF RAILROAD IN COLOMBIA.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Oct. 12.]

The firm of Pedro A. Lopez & Co., of Bogota, has made a contract with the Department of Public Works of the Colombian Government for the extension of the Ferrocarril del Noroeste (North-western Railroad) from Nemocon to Saboya, a distance of some 75 kilometers (47 miles), with an option on a contract to continue the construction on to San Gil, in the Department of Santander, about 140 kilometers farther. The contract has not yet been finally approved by Congress and the President. The Ferrocarril del Noroeste at present extends north from Bogota a little over 50 kilometers to Nemocon. The projected extension will carry the line well to the north into the Department of Santander and will be a great step toward the completion of the long-projected route from Bogota through Bucaramanga and on to the Magdalena River at Puerto Wilches, a route which will bring Bogota several days nearer to the coast.

The contractors are bound in the sum of \$100,000 for due compliance with their obligations, and provision is made for a Government subvention of \$10,000 for each kilometer (0.62 mile) constructed. In addition to this payment the Government is to turn over to the concessionaires that portion of the railroad already built, lying between Zipaquirá and Nemocon, which is valued in the contract at \$400,000. At the expiration of the contract (the term of which is not known here, but which is probably 50 years) the road built under the contract and the piece between Zipaquirá and Nemocon become the property of the Government.

FRENCH EMBARGO AND TRADE REGULATIONS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, Oct. 31.]

A decree of October 24 prohibits the export, transit, etc., from French colonies and protectorates other than Tunis and Morocco of the following products: Silk in cocoons or raw or thrown, and dyed or thrown and dyed silk; floss silk and byssus; floss and coarse silk thread; sewing, embroidery, passementerie, cords, and other silk thread; artificial silk-thread stock; silk or floss fabrics, pure or mixed; and all artificial silk fabrics. The decree is subject to the usual exceptions.

An order of October 28 permits the export, transit, etc., from the colonies to the usual allied nations and countries of North and South America of the following goods: All fatty acids; sulphurous anhydrides; arrack; asphalt; whale and cachalot spermaceti; borax, boracic acid, and other boron compounds; bituminous limestone; cinnamon; metallic chlorides, except gold and platinum chlorides; metalloidal chlorides; blacking; glue, all kinds, and materials therefor, including egg or serum albumen, dried blood, gelatin and glues made from hides, from hide and leather waste and animal refuse; dextrin and soluble starches; feldspar; cloves; manufactures of lead; sodium; varnish.

Authority is granted by a law of October 30 for the fixing of maximum prices and the requisitioning during hostilities and for three months thereafter of butter, cheese, and oil cake for fodder.

EFFECT OF OCTROI ON PEKING'S TRADE.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, China, Sept. 15.]

The office of the commercial attaché for China is constantly in receipt of letters relating not only to investment opportunities and to the trade of the country in general (with regard to which data are ordinarily on file or are easily obtained) but also to matters connected with import and export trade in lines that are not handled in Peking at all. This office is, of course, desirous of giving all possible assistance to inquirers on subjects properly within its scope, but it is often unable to do more than to refer specific inquiries to the consulates elsewhere in China. It may consequently not be amiss to invite attention to the fact that Peking is in no sense a commercial center, and that, with regard to the trade in any particular line, it is usually difficult for a representative stationed here—unless very familiar with other regions also—to speak with authority or in detail as to the exact conditions existing except in the city and its immediate vicinity.

It is suggested that inquirers seeking specific information first obtain from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, or by a study of the published statistics of the trade of China (which are issued in English), a general idea of the parts of the country that would be chiefly interested in their lines, and then direct their requests for local details to the consulates in those districts. If general information regarding the whole of China is also wanted, a request may well be directed to this office at the same time, and in any case it is desirable that copies should be sent here for file and reference purposes. China is a large country, and though its trade at present is by no means as diversified as would be the case were mining and manufactures more developed and the purchasing power of the people greater, its size, combined with inadequate means of communication and the absence of nearly all Government organs for promoting trade, makes almost impossible the obtaining in one region of specific data relating to conditions in another.

Octroi Not Levied by Other Chinese Cities.

Apart from the size of the country, the principal reasons why Peking is of minor importance as a commercial center are, first, that it is not a port and the railroad system of China is as yet too little developed to permit an inland city to assume great commercial importance; and, second, that it was originally founded for purely political reasons and its population, until quite recently, consisted almost wholly of an immense garrison with their families and only such commercial population as was needed to supply their wants. In addition to this, however, something must be said with regard to the influence of the Peking octroi.

This transit tax on all goods entering the city by whatever route or means of transportation represents a mode of raising revenue that is more familiar to Continental Europeans than to most English-speaking persons. It is here levied at the rate of 3 per cent ad valorem, and, at least in the case of goods coming in by rail, where invoices can be produced, it is understood that this rate is regularly adhered to. It can not, perhaps, be regarded as a heavy burden on trade, yet all merchants in Peking seem to agree that, when added to

other charges, it is enough of a burden to constitute an additional reason why Peking is not a distributing center of importance. Octroi is not levied elsewhere.

The Peking octroi is not likin, and it is of importance to remember this distinction, for it follows that any arrangement that might be made for the abolition of likin would not affect this tax.

EXPERIMENT IN PACKING COTTON GOODS FOR EXPORT.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, China, Aug. 2.]

Shanghai firms in the cotton piece-goods trade were interested recently in the opening of some bales of white shirtings which, instead of being packed in tin-lined cases, as has been the custom in the past, had been shipped in bales. The experiment was made on account of the great and increasing cost of packing cases and lining in Great Britain. Except for a few hook holes, the shipment was in perfectly good condition, but doubts are expressed as to the acceptability of the new method in this market. Conservative Chinese buyers consider it a very decided change and they also claim that the burlap is insufficient protection for the goods that are to be sent long distances into the interior after arriving at Shanghai. On these portions of the journey, as might be expected, the handling is very rough.

Some of the Chinese customers are so opposed to the change that they say they would be willing to pay something extra per piece to get the tin-lined cases. The value of the case itself, which is always salable at a good price in the interior, is a factor in this attitude. It seems unlikely, therefore, that the native trade will accept this change unless forced to do so by the impossibility of obtaining cotton piece goods except in bales, and this is not likely to occur unless it becomes impossible to obtain the present packing.

PROPOSED SUGAR CENTRAL FOR NORTHERN HAITI.

[Consul Lemuel W. Livingston, Cape Haitien, Oct. 2.]

Plans are afoot for the establishment by the Northern Haiti Sugar Corporation of a sugar central in the plain near Cape Haitien. Local owners of some 4,000 carreaux (12,000 acres) of suitable land have already subscribed to the project, and it is believed that the enterprise will succeed. [Mention of the interest being taken in the sugar industry in northern Haiti was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Feb. 8, 1916.]

In this connection it might be stated that *Le Moniteur* of September 16 contained the announcement of the signing of a contract for the erection of a central near Port au Prince.

FREE ADMISSION OF CRUDE OIL IN MEXICO.

[Telegram from special representative of the Department of State, Mexico City, Oct. 30.]

Crude oil coming into Mexico from the southwestern part of the United States will be allowed free entry, beginning November 1, at the following ports: Guaymas, Aguaprieta, Naco, Nogales, Los Algodones, Mexicali, Tia Juana, Ensenada, Magdalena Bay, San Jose del Cabo, La Paz, Santa Rosalia, Topolobampo, Mazatlan, and San Blas. This applies only to oil to be used as fuel.

IMPORTS OF READY-MADE SHIRTS BY BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 15.]

An inquiry has been received at the Rio de Janeiro consulate concerning the proper method of packing shirts, collars, and cuffs for export to Brazil, with the statement that a certain American manufacturer of these articles had been packing them in tarred gauze, and feared it was not sufficient protection against tropical rain. This differs from the prevailing practice in exporting such goods to Rio de Janeiro, which serves a large part of the Brazilian market for these articles. Shirts reach here, as they reach most other seaports, wrapped in paper and packed in cardboard boxes, which are later inclosed in wooden cases. Care is invariably taken in shipping to Brazil to avoid all unnecessary weight, as this considerably increases the expense to the importer in customs duties and other items.

Majority of Shirts on Market are Imported.

While there is a domestic cotton-spinning industry in Brazil, and some shirtings are produced, their use in local shirt making is not important. The cheaper grades of shirts and those valued up to \$3 United States currency are chiefly produced. The majority of shirts are imported. Most of the collars and cuffs seen upon the market are imported.

The price of shirts in Rio de Janeiro varies from about \$1.75 United States currency, which represents what would be called a 60-cent shirt in the United States, or \$2.25, representing the 98-cent shirt of our American retail stores, to \$3, \$4.50, and 7.50. The \$3 shirt is about what would be sold for \$1.50 in the United States, and the \$4.50 shirt would cost about \$2.50 at retail. Shirts above that figure are entirely an article of luxury, and are imported chiefly from Paris or Portugal. In cheap shirts the market has been divided between a native-made article manufactured from cheap English shirting, and an Austrian, French, Portuguese, or Italian article of the very cheapest description. The Italians just prior to the war had been rapidly coming to the front in this line. In all high-priced shirts the French and English seem to have the market to themselves.

Complaints Regarding American Shirts.

Sometimes shirts of American make are seen on this market. The quality that sells in the United States from \$9 to \$15 per dozen is considered completely outstripped here in competition by the Austrian, French, Portuguese, or Italian article of the same grade. Three large dealers here insist that the American medium-priced shirt comes to them with an occasional crooked seam, and with a great deal of uncertainty as to length of sleeve and size of collar, which causes complaints among their customers. The claim is made that our American shirt makers will not offer the shirt that is liked on this market, insisting upon removing the little front tab which is approved by the public here, and inflicting upon it "coat shirts" and other novelties which Brazilians regard as entirely fantastic. The Austrians, Italians, and Portuguese, on the other hand, send shirts which are of the requisite pattern to suit the native taste—the Portuguese shirt even has little buttons over the biceps so that the sleeve may be pulled up and fastened—and which are remarkably low-priced and well finished.

Difficulties Experienced with Shirtings.

A prominent local firm of importers states that some years ago it imported a considerable quantity of American shirtings, but that these dropped out of the market, partly because of a removal of the 25 per cent reduction which was formally allowed on cotton clothing from the United States, and partly because the thread used in the United States appears heavier than that of England or Germany, and therefore makes the goods heavier in weight and more costly to the importer in customs duty. Another firm, confirming this statement, adds that the "overhead" charges (i. e., expenses other than those incidental to actual production) are so heavy in the United States as to make shirtings very costly; that our American manufacturers have not always been as dependable as the European exporters, and that when samples were sent them they were inclined to substitute colors; or not to match the samples exactly.

Whether or not these allegations are all correct, it may be well for our American manufacturers to know of them and to realize that, in this market at least, the European makers of shirts seem decidedly more inclined to conform to local styles and decidedly more skillful in catering to the peculiar wants of the customer. The foreign makers, as is easily learned from their invoices, make a much closer study of tariffs than our exporters do, and are much more careful in fulfilling to the letter a customer's order, simply because they know by experience that any little variation or departure from what is ordered may increase the cost to their customer.

Illustrations of Value of Careful Study.

Two cases are typical, and may be very interesting as illustrations of what carefully filling an order and carefully studying a foreign tariff may mean. One is that of a firm here which ordered from the United States some "white voile" to be of a certain weight per meter and thus to come within a specific item in the Brazilian tariff. The American factory appears to have starched the goods more heavily in its subsequent shipments than in its first, with the result that the material weighed slightly more, received an entirely different classification, and paid a considerable higher specific duty. The same care is required in filling orders for American textiles which it is provided shall be of "so many threads to the millimeter." This is intended to have them pass under a certain item in the tariff, and a variation of one thread too many invariably causes expense and hard feeling.

The second case is that of shoe-top cloth (a woolen textile) which was sent successfully to this country by a certain American firm for some time, in spite of the fact that it paid a very heavy duty of 8 milreis (about \$2 United States currency) per kilo (2.2 pounds). Recently the firm sent a clever salesman to Brazil, and he discovered that the cloth was never used here without a backing, and that if it were backed before being exported it would weigh so much more that it would come under an entirely different class of woolen goods in the tariff and would cost just about one-half in duties of what it cost when left unbacked. There can be no better illustration of the advisability of sending an energetic and intelligent man over the

ground, and of having one's foreign customers feel that their own interests as well as the exporter's are being studied.

[A report on the shirt and collar industries in the United States has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as Miscellaneous Series No. 36. Copies may be obtained at 20 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district officers of this bureau.]

MALAY PENINSULA'S FIRST COAL MINE.

[Vice Consul David J. Lewis, Singapore, Straits Settlements, Sept. 12.]

The Malayan Tin and Rubber Journal states that most of the plant of the Malayan Collieries (Ltd.) had at the end of 1915 been received and erected and was capable of turning out 300 tons per day, but on account of difficulties in obtaining labor the average daily output was less than 200 tons. When the full equipment of the plant is erected, it is hoped that the output will be increased to 1,000 tons daily. The present high freight rates tend to create a strong demand for Rawang coal in the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements. The labor difficulty is serious, as the Chinese miners find work in the tin mines more congenial than that in the collieries. Steps are being taken to import mining labor from abroad.

This is the first coal-mining enterprise undertaken in the Malay Peninsula, and much interest in the company is taken by local consumers of coal. It is not expected, however, that it will be in a position for some time to supply any very large portion of the coal used here. The figures for the calendar year 1915 show imports of 717,574 tons, a large proportion of which came from Japan.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Pike, William J.	St. Gall, Switzerland..	Nov. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 14	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 404 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Kniecherhoefer Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon ..	Dec. 23	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	.....do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	Dec. 30	Do.
Waddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	.....do.....	Do.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	.....do.....	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

AMERICAN TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

"American business men should get the point of view of the Australian merchant," says Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, in a book he has prepared with the object of offering suggestions to those in this country who seek increased trade in the markets of Australia. Particular attention, he says, should be paid to correspondence, because of the time required for mail to be carried between the two countries, and the differing taste in regard to the character of the letters that may be written.

The report by Mr. Kennedy is published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It is devoted exclusively to the details of carrying on trade already secured, as is indicated by the following list of chapters: Packing, Insurance, Documents required, Forwarding documents, The Australian tariff, Dutiable values, Trade description, Proof of origin, Financing by letters of credit, Financing by export commission houses, Financing by draft against documents, Quotation of prices, Postage, parcels post, and express, Correspondence, Traveling representatives, Taxation.

Mr. Kennedy states that as it takes about two months to get a reply from Australia, it is necessary to tell the whole story on each occasion. An experienced Sydney importer urges his American correspondents to write him always as if he knew nothing. The typical American sales letter which "has a punch" is not suitable for the Australian trade. The managing director of what is probably the largest business in Australia is quoted as stating that more harm is done by such letters than by any other one thing. The report calls attention to the absurdity of allowing tactlessness and petty unreasonableness to bring about misunderstanding between peoples having so much in common as Australians and Americans.

The report is entitled "Exporting to Australia," Miscellaneous Series No. 45. It contains 29 pages, and may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for the nominal sum of 5 cents.

PRICES OF CANADIAN CANNED GOODS.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Oct. 19.]

A local newspaper reprints in its issue of to-day the following extract from the Canadian Grocer, Toronto, regarding the canned-goods situation in the Dominion:

There is every reason to expect that the new prices to be named by Canadian canners will be 75 per cent in advance of the opening prices of last year. It is asserted in some quarters that not more than 50 per cent of orders for tomatoes and corn will be delivered. There will be no 8-pound cans of tomatoes this year, the pack being practically all 2½ pounds. Canned pumpkin will be off the market. Peaches have been a fair crop but will be slightly higher than last year.

Canned pork and beans will probably open somewhere near the price of last year. The Ontario crop has been a fair one, and the importation of Japanese and Indian beans has had a steady influence on the local market. The price of cans and sugar are higher than last year and have had a tendency to increase prices.

[A report on the canned-goods market in New Brunswick was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 31.]

HOUSING PROBLEM IN EAST SCOTLAND.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Oct. 19.]

Several thousand workmen from Chatham, Portsmouth, Devonport, and other English cities have recently found employment at Rosyth on the Firth of Forth, and it is understood that many more will soon arrive. The housing problem in the Dunfermline and Inverkeithing district, north of the Forth, became acute some time ago, notwithstanding the efforts of house-building companies to meet the needs of the newcomers, and now there is a great demand in Edinburgh for small houses (flats or cottages) for these workmen and their families. According to a prominent real estate agent, the authorities in London have asked Edinburgh for 1,000 houses at rentals of £10 to £30 (\$49 to \$146) a year, "and not a house of that description is to be found in the city."

Although 10 miles from Rosyth, Edinburgh is made convenient to the men by an excellent service of railway passenger trains, and, as most of the workmen prefer to live in a large city, the pressure for accommodation in the western and southern sections of Edinburgh has brought upon the municipal corporation a difficult and embarrassing situation. Private enterprise is not attracted by the requirements of the workers for tenements or small houses; in fact, private capital is particularly timid in looking in that direction, because in respect to better-class dwelling houses the city is overbuilt, many of these houses being vacant. The solution to be found for the small-house problem can not be foreseen.

From the present and future demands for houses and cottages for workmen and for tenants of small agricultural holdings, it might be inferred that the building trades will be exceptionally active in the near future and that the market for building materials of all kinds will accordingly expand, but it is doubtful if this view will prove to be correct. Since the beginning of the war the building trades have been employed almost exclusively in the construction of factories, villages of huts, etc. Much of this work is of a permanent character. In this part of Scotland house-building was at a standstill before the outbreak of the war on account of the large investment of capital for many years in streets of villas and semidetached residences of the higher grade, and it is considered probable that for some years after the restoration of peace little capital will be employed in house-building or nonindustrial construction of any kind, unless municipal corporations are to be encouraged and aided to undertake housing schemes.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 702 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 548 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

HANKOW'S TRADE IN EGGS AND PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China, Sept. 13.]

Hankow and its environs is one of the greatest egg-producing regions in China, exporting to Chinese and foreign ports over 16,197,000 pieces of fresh whole eggs, valued at \$53,531 (gold), during the year 1915. This is in addition to 12,347,867 pounds of frozen egg exports, valued at \$462,716, during the same period and large quantities of eggs used by the natives in local consumption and sold to foreign factories for the manufacture of albumen and other egg products.

Of the hen-egg products exported to Chinese and foreign ports from Hankow, dried albumen is far in excess of the others, totaling during 1915 over 2,207,000 pounds, valued at \$737,358 (gold), against 1,365,000 pounds the preceding year, valued at \$381,362. Liquid egg yolk is second, with 7,692,000 pounds, valued at \$417,363, in 1915, against 6,345,000 pounds, valued at \$224,851, in 1914. Dried egg yolk is third, with an exportation of 2,752,000 pounds, valued at \$320,592, in 1915, against 697,000 pounds, valued at \$60,320, in 1914, followed by liquid albumen with a total of 48,000 pounds, valued at \$5,073, against 459,000 pounds, valued at \$39,597, during 1914.

There are numerous native egg dealers located in Hankow, who have their agents throughout this section of the country buying up the egg production.

Inspection of Eggs—Prices.

Local foreign albumen factories have contracts with the native dealers for the supply of eggs, which are subject to inspection by the contracting factories. By these agreements the manufacturers are able to purchase eggs somewhat cheaper than the market price and at the same time obtain the best quality by returning all bad or doubtful ones to the dealers.

Eggs are the most plentiful during the spring months. At present the price of fresh eggs is approximately 16,000 cash per picul of 133½ pounds. As the average number of eggs per picul is about 1,500, the cost per egg is 10½ cash or less than one-half cent United States currency.

Treating the Yolks and Whites.

Upon the arrival of the eggs at the factory they are subjected to a candle test, then washed and brought into the breaking room, where the yolks and whites are separated. The liquid albumen is then allowed to ferment for two or three days, during which time the clear liquid settles to the bottom of the barrels and is drawn off into pails by means of a stopcock. During the process of fermentation the acidity of the albumen becomes rather high, and in order to neutralize this an alkaline substance, usually ammonia, is added until litmus gives the alkaline test. The final stage in the conversion process is the drying of the albumen in shallow metal pans previously coated with vaseline, which takes place in steam-heated rooms ranging in temperature from 130° to 140° Fahrenheit. When completely dry the albumen is packed in wooden boxes lined with metal, zinc being used, as a rule. Shipments are generally made in 100 to 120 pound cases.

When egg yolk is to be shipped in liquid form the yolks are collected and run through sieves which grow finer and finer as the process continues. The product is then treated with either a 2 per cent solution of boracic acid or a 1 per cent boracic acid and 9 per cent salt solution, and after a 16-minute mixing process which takes place in wooden drums the yolks are ready for shipment in wooden metal-lined cases.

The only difference in the manufacture of liquid and dried egg yolk is that the latter contains no chemicals and is dried by means of large vacuum machines.

Prices of Dried Eggs, Yolks, and Albumen.

Mixed dried eggs in 1,000-pound lots are purchasable on the local market for approximately 26 tael cents per pound (at the present rate of exchange 1 tael equals about \$0.75 gold).

During June, 1915, the average price of hen-egg yolk as established by the leading exporters of the product was \$21.18 gold per 133½-pound lot, locally known as a picul, or a trifle less than 16 cents per pound. During June of this year hen-egg yolk brought \$22.24 gold per picul, or approximately 16½ cents per pound.

Hen-egg albumen was selling at \$48 gold per picul during June, 1915, or a little over 36 cents per pound, while the June prices of this year had jumped to \$67.90 per picul, or a trifle over 51 cents gold per pound.

The rise in prices of egg products delivered in America is due only partially to the increased original cost. Since June, 1915, the exchange has decreased so as to give a 40 per cent increase in the laid down cost. Another important factor is the 300 per cent increase in freight rates. Higher insurance and rail rates also added to the above help to raise the price of egg products to unprecedented levels.

IMPORTANT CODIFICATION OF LAWS IN PANAMA.

The President of Panama has recently submitted to the National Assembly seven codes of laws that have been carefully prepared by a commission especially appointed for the purpose which has been working on this task for the last three years, and these codes have been approved and will take effect on and after January 1, 1917.

These codes—civil, penal, commercial, judicial, administrative, fiscal, and mining—are designed to meet national needs and modern conditions and will replace the old Colombian laws that have been in use since the separation of Panama.

As a result of this codification the public will have an opportunity for the first time of being able to find, in one place, all of the laws that are now actually in force in the Republic, which will be a great relief from the condition resulting from the modification of the former Colombian laws by the addition of the numerous decrees and interpretations which were made necessary by the changes resulting from the establishment of separate sovereignty. It is interesting to note that many modernizing ideas have been incorporated in these codes, and especial attention has been given to a simplification and shortening of legal processes.

PAINT MAKING A NEW SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Helsler, Cape Town, South Africa, Sept. 26.]

A company was launched recently in Cape of Good Hope Province for the manufacture of earth pigments and ochers into paints. The new company, Colours (Ltd.), operates a farm in the Riversdale area of the Province, where experts have found color pigments. All the capital of the company was subscribed in South Africa.

The area has not yet been wholly opened up, but it is considered certain that there are extensive deposits.

This earth contains a great variety of colors, and an expert in London is said to have declared that they are of an excellent value, second only to the finest ochers and oxides known. The colors are reds of various shades, yellows, purples, blues, and greens.

Special Machinery Shipped from England.

Special machinery was obtained in England by the chairman of the newly formed company, and arrangements were made for immediate shipment to this country. Factory operations may be started at an early date. Large quantities of the commodities will no doubt be produced annually, though, of course, the output will depend largely upon the ability to compete with foreign manufacturers. The services of a paint technologist have been obtained.

South Africa will have established a new and important industry if the cost of production of the paints is such as will permit the placing of these commodities on this market at an equal or lower price than similar articles manufactured overseas. The proposition has not yet reached the stage, however, where prices can be quoted.

SHIPPING SERVICE BETWEEN BANGKOK AND SINGAPORE.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam.]

The Straits Steam Ship Co. (Ltd.) has recently placed a new steamer, the *Kamuning*, on the Bangkok-Singapore run, and this boat, together with the *Kajang*, will inaugurate a midweekly service, leaving Singapore every Wednesday or Tuesday and Bangkok on Wednesdays. It is primarily intended that these boats shall act as cargo carriers between the respective ports. The *Kajang* on a recent run brought up to Bangkok over 1,000 tons of general cargo from Singapore, including considerable merchandise from the United States, transhipped through Singapore for Bangkok. The two other vessels, the *Kuala* and the *Katong*, which the same company has maintained on this run since the beginning of the war, will continue their service as before.

TARIFF REDUCTION ON CLOTHING IN MEXICO.

[Telegram from the special representative of American interests at Mexico City, Oct. 30.]

The Mexican press publishes a statement to the effect that import duties on cloth and cheap shoes will be reduced 25 per cent. Duties on shirts, stockings, socks, and blankets will also be reduced.

[Information regarding the rates prescribed by the new Mexican tariff, in effect Nov. 1, 1916, will be furnished to those interested by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

NEW SUBSIDIARY COINS IN CHINA.

[Consul C. E. Gauss, Tientsin, Sept. 14.]

By a notification dated August 3, 1916, the Ministry of Finance of China announces the minting of three new subsidiary coins, the half-yuan piece, the 20-cent piece, and the 10-cent piece, the weight, fineness, and legal allowance for variations being prescribed under the national currency law. Under this law the unit of the national coin is called the yuan, containing 6 mace 4 candareens 8 li (kuping weight), or 23.97795048 grams of pure silver. [For a discussion of China's new currency system see Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Apr. 3, 1914.] The yuan, or yuan dollar as it is commonly called, was issued some time ago, but the subsidiary coins have only recently been minted.

Throughout China, subsidiary silver coins known as 5, 10, and 20 cent pieces and nominally bearing a ratio of one-twentieth, one-tenth, and one-fifth of the dollar, but stamped with a tael value, are in circulation. The ratio that these coins bear to the dollar varies to an extraordinary degree. Generally, all subsidiary silver coins are accepted only at discount. Popular fancy has played its part in connection with subsidiary silver coinage also. Under the currency law the new subsidiary silver coins are required to be exchanged for one another on a decimal basis, and no premium or discount is allowed in exchange. A penalty is provided by the currency law for violation of this provision.

Standards Fixed by Currency Law.

In reply to an inquiry through official channels from the Tientsin consulate general, the head mint at Tientsin, which coined this subsidiary currency, gives the following information:

According to Section V of the national currency law the complete weight of the 50-cent piece is 3 mace 6 candareens, while the relative weights of silver and copper are silver 7, copper 3. The complete weight of the 20-cent piece is 1 mace 4.4 candareens; the relative weight of silver and copper, silver 7, copper 3. The complete weight of the 10-cent piece is 7.2 candareens; the relative weights of silver and copper, silver 7, copper 3.

According to Section VIII of the law, the weight of any individual coin may not differ more than 0.003 from the legally fixed weight, and the weight of any 1,000 coins must not differ more than 0.003 from the weight fixed by law for 1,000 coins.

According to Section IX of the law, the fineness also must not differ more than 0.003 from the legally fixed fineness.

This mint has followed the regulations as above noted in the issuance of these new coins.

The new subsidiary coins are being issued through the Bank of China at Tientsin.

Trade-Promotion Work in Denmark.

The effectiveness of the trade-promotion work of the American consular service is clearly shown by Consul General E. D. Winalow's report of results in Copenhagen for the September quarter. He reports, among other transactions, the sale to Danish firms of \$4,500 worth of American electrical machinery, 28 boxes of raw tobacco, 2,000 pounds of yarn, and 50 tons of agricultural machinery through "Trade Opportunities," and of 515 pounds of varnish, \$70,000 worth of linseed cake, and 4,000 tons of cottonseed cake through the direct efforts of his office staff.

DECLINE IN EXPORTS FROM BERGEN TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul F. C. Symond, Bergen, Norway, Oct. 5.]

There has been a considerable decline in exports from the Bergen consular district to the United States during the past three months, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1914. Fish products have formerly been the chief articles of export to the American market, but as higher prices can be obtained for these products in certain European countries almost all are now being exported to those markets. Hides and skins are now the most important articles exported to the United States. The value of such articles exported to the United States during the first nine months of this year was \$517,751, compared with \$281,083 in the same period in 1915 and \$319,441 in 1914.

The total value of exports from Bergen to the United States for the September quarter of 1914 was \$780,101; last year it was \$499,445, while this year it was only \$183,430.

RUSSIA'S FOREIGN TRADE FOR HALF YEAR.

[Compiled in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from Russian official statistics.]

The following table shows the imports and exports of Russia over the European and Caucasus-Black Sea frontiers and the commerce with Finland, by principal countries of origin and destination, for the first half of 1914, 1915, and 1916. Because of the fluctuations in the exchange value of the Russian ruble the amounts are stated in the original currency; the ruble is now quoted at about \$0.31:

Imports and exports and countries.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1914.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.
IMPORTS.			
	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>	<i>Rubles.</i>
Austria-Hungary	19,487,000	708,000	1,703,000
China	7,594,000	6,918,000	15,440,000
Denmark	6,923,000	2,166,000	4,587,000
East Indies	19,660,000	3,420,000	8,971,000
Finland	28,151,000	34,615,000	54,202,000
France	36,206,000	6,011,000	51,232,000
Germany	552,164,000	13,785,000	2,665,000
Italy	15,149,000	3,607,000	4,551,000
Japan	1,273,000	5,555,000	15,994,000
Netherlands	13,500,000	3,690,000	2,974,000
Norway	4,258,000	966,000	5,038,000
Sweden	7,092,000	12,167,000	17,116,000
Switzerland	3,027,000	1,232,000	3,764,000
United Kingdom	94,342,000	59,476,000	111,070,000
United States	66,675,000	16,849,000	100,921,000
All other countries	36,101,000	10,095,000	10,240,000
Total	710,114,000	181,258,000	470,558,000
EXPORTS.			
Denmark	14,315,000	260,000	1,377,000
Finland	23,589,000	56,609,000	87,400,000
France	47,038,000	2,369,000	15,085,000
Norway	5,379,000	1,344,000	1,001,000
Roumania	10,798,000	1,435,000	4,084,000
Sweden	4,975,000	1,296,000	3,289,000
United Kingdom	118,162,000	20,219,000	53,958,000
United States	7,562,000	155,000	831,000
All other countries	447,369,000	1,494,000	1,778,000
Total	677,561,000	54,171,000	168,800,000

Increase in Trade with United States.

The following table shows the principal imports into European Russia from the United States and the principal exports from European Russia to the United States during the first half of 1915 and 1916:

Imports and exports.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.	Imports and exports.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.
IMPORTS.			IMPORTS—continued.		
Agricultural machinery..	Rubles. 100,000	Rubles. 1,508,000	Leather, and manufac- tures of:	Rubles.	Rubles.
Cars, carriages, etc.:			Leather.....	265,000	3,789,000
Automobiles, pas- senger.....	269,000	4,302,000	Shoes.....	266,000	7,455,000
Motor trucks and automobile chassis..	30,000	8,491,000	Metal manufactures, n. e. s.	14,000	3,458,000
Parts.....	5,000	1,728,000	Nickel: Bars, ingots, etc..	191,000	2,040,000
Chemicals: Nitrate of soda.....	626,000	4,994,000	Tools, hand.....	20,000	905,000
Cellulophony.....	320,000	2,503,000	Woolen materials.....	1,000	1,408,000
Copper: Bars, ingots, etc..	312,000	10,458,000	Zinc: Pigs, scrap, sheets, etc.....	115,000	3,458,000
Cotton, raw.....	7,950,000	4,126,000	All other articles.....	4,550,000	12,817,000
Iron and steel, and manu- factures of:			Total imports.....	16,849,000	100,921,000
Macinery, iron and steel, and parts of..	1,580,000	5,071,000	EXPORTS.		
Rails.....		1,389,000	Bristles.....	40,000	273,000
Steel.....	67,000	1,234,000	Caviar (except red caviar).....		120,000
Wire, iron and steel.....	1,000	2,873,000	Fibers: Hemp.....	103,000	
Wire, manufactures of.....	13,000	3,136,000	Fur skins.....	4,000	153,000
Other iron and steel manufactures.....	48,000	2,694,000	Licorice root.....		144,000
Lead: Pigs and scrap.....	207,000	3,197,000	All other articles.....	8,000	131,000
			Total exports.....	155,000	831,000

These figures show only the direct shipments between the United States and Russia. The goods that were transshipped are credited to the country of transshipment.

BOMBAY SHORT-POSTAGE AND BAD-PACKING COMPLAINT.

[Vice Consul Selby S. Coleman, Bombay, India.]

The following letter was addressed to the Bombay consulate by one of the largest general stores in this city:

May we invite your attention to the constant action of American firms posting out letters to India which are insufficiently stamped? Every week we receive one or two, and as we often can not trace the senders by the envelope we take them all in only to find that the contents are circulars often of no interest to us. We inclose a sample received to-day on which we paid the equivalent of 6 cents.

We would also invite your notice to the bad packing of goods from America. We now import large quantities of goods from your country and invariably we receive several boxes or bales in each consignment burst open and with a portion of their contents missing or damaged. A case in point, we have just unpacked 1,000 blankets from New York, of this quantity 400 are damaged by the rust of the hoops, corners burst open, and gunny torn. They were packed in too large bales, with not nearly enough lining for such a long journey.

The complaint regarding insufficient postage on mail arriving from American manufacturers is a very common one. It therefore seems desirable that the attention of American manufacturers be again drawn to this subject of short-paid postage (which is very irritating to the addressees in India, especially should envelopes contain nothing more than printed matter), and that the manufacturers' attention also be called to the question of unsatisfactory packing, which, to my knowledge, is a complaint that in many cases is well founded.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ direct inquiries received by the **Bureau**.

Barrel staves.....	22877	Overalls.....	22875
Binding presses.....	22882	Pipes and fittings.....	22886
Cotton piece goods.....	22880	Plaster.....	22881
Cottonseed oil.....	22877	Raincoats.....	22879
Dress fabrics.....	22880	Ribbons.....	22884
Groceries.....	22877	Shoes.....	22878
Haberdashery.....	22880	Silk goods.....	22880
Hosiery.....	22880	Steel rods.....	22886
Liquors.....	22877	Sugar.....	22877
Machinery, hulling.....	22883	Typewriting machines.....	22885
Machinery, ruling.....	22882	Underwear.....	22880; 22884
Machinery, textile.....	22876	Wearing apparel for women.....	22880

- 22875.*—A man in Norway desires to secure the agency for American-made overalls. References. Correspondence may be in English.
- 22876.†—A business man in France desires to represent American manufacturers of machinery for the manufacture of cotton and linen goods. Reference. Correspondence in French.
- 22877.*—A merchant in Argentina is desirous of representing American manufacturers and exporters of groceries, liquors, cottonseed oil, and oak and chestnut barrel staves for wine casks. Communication is also desired with an American exporter of sugar, from whom quotations and samples are desired. References. Correspondence in Spanish.
- 22878.*—A manufacturers' agent in a foreign colonial possession desires to secure the agency of American manufacturers of shoes for women and children. Correspondence in English. References.
- 22879.*—A merchant in Spain desires to secure the representation of an American manufacturer of raincoats. Correspondence in Spanish. References.
- 22880.*—A manufacturers' agent in South Africa desires to represent one or more American manufacturers of women's dress and dress fabrics, cotton and silk piece goods, underwear, hosiery, neckwear, shirt waists, haberdashery, etc. References.
- 22881.*—A firm in Canada desires to communicate with firms in the United States handling plaster in sheets for repairing walls.
- 22882.*—An established firm of bookbinders and stationers in Brazil is in the market for binding presses and ruling machine. Correspondence in English.
- 22883.*—A firm in Italy is in the market for machines for removing hulls from dried beans. Capacity from 5,000 to 10,000 per day. Correspondence in Italian or French. References.
- 22884.*—A firm in Central America desires quotations in 60-dozen lots on underwear and ribbons. Ribbons 3 to 10 inches in width. References.
- 22885.*—A firm in Hungary wishes to get in touch with manufacturers of so-called automatic typewriting machines, said to be a combination of the ordinary typewriter and a manifold machine. Correspondence in German.
- 22886.*—A drainage engineer in India desires specifications, etc., on cast-iron water pipes and fittings, and steel rods for reinforced concrete work. A contract will shortly be placed by one of the native States for 8,000 tons of cast-iron pipes.

Market Wanted for Bones and Horns.

A firm in Northern Brazil, whose address can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 81277, desires to get in touch with American importers of bones and horns. This firm is in a position to supply these articles in large quantities.

NOV 13 1916

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COMMERCE REPORTS



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RESUMPTION OF STEAMSHIP SERVICE FROM COLON.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Oct. 20.]

The Royal Mail Steamship Co. announces that it will resume early in December next its service between Colon and New York, via Kingston, Jamaica, and Santiago, Cuba, and also between Colon and Cartagena and Puerto Colombia (port for Barranquilla), Colombia, the proposed resumption of which was reported in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 11, 1916. The service will be fortnightly in each direction. As before reported this service was discontinued in November, 1914.

IMPORTS OF HORSESHOES AND NAILS INTO COSTA RICA.

[Vice Consul Albert B. Pullen, Port Limon, Oct. 14.]

About 20,000 pounds of horseshoes and mule shoes are imported into the Port Limon district each year. The United Fruit Co. is the principal buyer and gets its supply from an American source.

Nos. 0 and 1 are the only sizes in demand. The approximate base price is \$3.75 per hundred pounds, with the usual discount. The retail price is 8 cents per pound.

Horseshoe nails to the amount of about 1,000 pounds per year are bought from an American firm. The prices paid are, for Nos. 5 and 6, \$8 per hundred pounds; No 7, \$13.52 per hundred pounds. The retail price is 20 cents per pound.

PERU TO PUBLISH INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Oct. 4.]

The President of Peru has issued a decree directing the Minister of Fomento to organize a service of industrial statistics of the Republic. By this decree all the industrial establishments of the country are obliged to furnish the minister with such data as he may desire. The information so collected will be published annually by the Government.

PACIFIC TRANS-PACIFIC PASSENGER SERVICE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 14.]

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha, the principal Japanese shipping company in the trans-Pacific trade, announces that it is building a new vessel, the *San Francisco Maru*, which will be the largest and fastest vessel on the Pacific Ocean. It also states that this vessel will serve only in an express service between Yokohama and San Francisco by way of Honolulu, and will make connections at Yokohama with other vessels serving Manila and Hongkong.

This division of the voyage has been discussed by shipping interests from time to time and was seriously considered a little less than a year ago, when the reduced tonnage on the Pacific made it impossible to serve the entire East acceptably, with the result that Japanese ports and interests were first served by Japanese lines. It was estimated at that time that by confining the service of the larger and faster ships to the Yokohama-San Francisco run, and allowing the service between Hongkong and Yokohama to be taken over by other lines and smaller ships, the available tonnage across the Pacific could be materially increased.

To be Ready for Use Within Two Years.

The new vessel is to have a length of 636 feet, about 46 feet longer than the "Empress" ships of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Service (Ltd.), which now furnish the leading fast service across the Pacific. The ship will have quadruple-expansion engines, a speed of 23 knots an hour, accommodations for 300 first-class passengers, 100 second-class, and 800 steerage passengers, and every possible convenience and luxury. It will, in short, be designed to compete with the Canadian Pacific and with any ships American companies may elect to place in the Pacific service. It is expected to be ready for use within two years. Much of the material comes from the United States. Its construction is under way in a new shipyard established for the purpose. It will be followed by other ships of the "Empress" class.

The inauguration of the express system from Yokohama to San Francisco emphasizes the policy of the Japanese lines, under Government subsidy, to serve Japanese interests first, leaving Manila and Hongkong interests and American trade there to be taken care of by other means.

Special Advantage to Japanese Silk Interests.

The fast service will be of special advantage to Japanese silk interests, since the short voyage reduces interest charges on valuable silk cargoes to a minimum. This is one of the vital elements in the silk-import business. Inasmuch as Japanese silk interests in the past few years have developed almost a complete monopoly of the raw-silk trade with the United States, this fast service is likely to increase materially the hold of the Japanese silk dealers upon American manufacturing interests.

It is becoming more and more evident that if there is to be any material improvement in the shipping services between the United States, Hongkong, and Manila it must be from American sources. The inauguration of the new service of the Pacific Mail Co. is being watched with great interest. The vessels now in service are said to

be comfortable, attractive, and satisfactory in every way, except in size and speed.

The keenest sort of competition in passenger and freight service on the Pacific is expected at the close of the war, and the character of the vessels already in service or under construction is such that only those of the highest class may hope to have a reasonable part in the trade.

MUNICIPAL-IMPROVEMENT LOAN OF COLOMBIAN CITY.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Oct. 14.]

The arrangement by which Bogota is to borrow \$5,000,000 from the American International Corporation [as noted in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 23, 1916] has inspired other cities in Colombia to achieve municipal improvements by the same methods. The municipality of Medellin, population about 40,000, capital of the Department of Antioquia, has recently provided for the issuance of municipal bonds to the amount of \$400,000, in four series of \$100,000 each. The first series, in bonds of \$10, \$20, and \$50, has been issued, and entirely subscribed. Probably the most noteworthy feature of this loan is that the first \$100,000 has been taken wholly by citizens of Medellin.

The bonds bear interest at 10 per cent per annum, and premiums amounting to an additional 1 per cent per annum are to be raffled off among the bondholders every six months. Newspaper commentators on the loan do not consider 11 per cent too high when current rates of interest in the country and especially the fact that there is no initial discount for underwriters and no commissions of any kind to pay are taken into consideration. The proceeds of the loan are to be used in the construction of a modern water-supply system and in the general sanitation of Medellin.

It is reported that the city of Manizales, capital of the Department of Caldas, is also considering launching a popular subscription loan more or less after the same plan as that of Medellin.

ORDER FROM BRITISH INDIA FOR AMERICAN PAPER.

[Vice Consul H. B. Osborn, Rangoon, Burma, Sept. 13.]

Printing paper to the value of \$111,880 was imported into Burma in the year 1914-15. The weights most extensively used are: Demy, 18 by 22 inches, unglazed, 10 to 12 pounds; glazed, 12 to 20 pounds; royal, 20 by 26 inches, unglazed, 16 to 20 pounds; glazed, 16 to 28 pounds; double foolscap, 17 by 27 inches, glazed, 16 to 28 pounds; double crown, 20 by 30 inches, glazed, 21 to 30 pounds.

An order for American paper has been given by the largest Rangoon newspaper, through the local office of a London firm. The proprietor of this paper writes: "America turns out good paper, but in normal times the prices are impossible for the printer here."

The only newspapers of any considerable circulation are: The Rangoon Gazette, Sparks Street, Rangoon; and the Rangoon Times, Merchant Street, Rangoon.

[The name of the London firm that received the order for American paper may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81483.]

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION AT MADRAS.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Aug. 21.]

Sir Thomas Holland, president of the Indian Industrial Commission, who has arrived in India to take up his duties, came recently to Madras on a preliminary tour and held informal conferences with local chambers of commerce. The commission will assemble in October and as soon as possible will tour the Provinces to collect information through independent witnesses, representatives of local committees and institutions, and by personal inspection of industrial enterprises.

A preliminary note on the scope of inquiry by the commission states that the scattered information already available regarding the resources of India in raw material, the suitability of the people for expert labor, and the probable financial resources of the country, is sufficient to show that there are room and opportunity for a very substantial development of manufacturing and other industries.

It will be the business of the commission, the note says, after establishing this fundamental proposition by a critical analysis of the facts, to suggest the most profitable lines of action with the object (a) of drawing out capital now lying idle; (b) of building up an artisan population; (c) of carrying on the scientific and technical researches required to test the known raw materials and to design and improve processes of manufacture; (d) of distributing the information obtained from researches and from the results of experience in other countries; and (e) of developing the machinery for (1) financing industrial undertakings and (2) marketing products.

Describes Conditions in Madras Presidency.

In the conference held at the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, Madras, the president of that organization of native merchants described general conditions in the Madras Presidency. He said:

Unlike the sister Presidencies of Bombay and Bengal, we in this Presidency can not lay claim to any large manufacturing industry. We have nothing to compare with the cotton and jute industries of those Presidencies, but are almost wholly dependent upon agriculture. Nearly 70 per cent of our population have nothing but land and agriculture to look to for their living, and with the grains that we produce we feed ourselves, and with such commercial products as we raise from the land we carry on our foreign trade and thereby provide ourselves with some comforts. It has been calculated that the average cultivated area of this Presidency works out at 1 acre per head of the population, and it is out of the yield of this 1 acre we are fed, clothed, and comforted. * * * Yet another peculiarity of ours is the striking absence of any facilities for the development of the modern methods of mechanical power. We are far away from the coal fields and, with transport difficulties which are getting more and more acute, the generation of steam power is attended with no small expense and difficulty. The use of internal-combustion engines using gas or oil has been made familiar to a certain extent by the efforts of Mr. Chatterton, and the raising of water for irrigation and the running of small factories for cotton ginning, cane crushing, seed pressing, rice husking, etc., are assisted by this means of generating power. * * * Fuel in the shape of wood or oil is very dear and unavailable, and these circumstances constitute a great drawback in the development of industries in this Presidency.

The president of the South Indian Chamber of Commerce then referred to some of the principal industries of the Presidency and the scope that there is, in his opinion, for their development. These included cotton spinning and weaving, oilseeds, sugar, dyeing, etc.

Country Has All the Expert Labor It Needs.

Sir Thomas Holland said that he was already quite convinced that India had the means of obtaining all the expert labor that was necessary. Anyone who had ever visited the Tata Iron and Steel Works would come away convinced that with Indian labor it was possible to tackle any industry to which the country was suited. He had seen laborers at Sakchi, who only a few years ago were in the jungles, without any education, now handling red-hot steel billets and turning out rails, wheels, etc., as efficiently as any English laborer could have done it. They could not have any better test of the quality of labor, and they could not be provided with more satisfactory results. When the labor was properly organized, educated, and fed there was not the slightest doubt, he said, that the raw material available in the country would be efficiently utilized. The whole question depended upon the methods adopted for getting information as to details and the training of the people.

Might Join Interests of Different Provinces.

The commission, he said, would first of all examine certain witnesses, who would give their experience. Then, as convenient, certain typical works in India would be visited. In the end there might be a general conference with local committees to settle certain problems on the spot. Then it would be necessary to consider the development of official administration to carry out the proposals they would leave behind. In some cases it would be necessary, probably, because of the high technical value of some of the questions, to join together the interests of the different Provinces and create an imperial department. For instance, the oil-seed industry was a very important one in Madras, and to some extent it was an important industry in other Provinces, and it might be best to join the interests of Madras with those of the other Provinces and have an imperial staff to improve the oil-pressing industry in India. There were also problems in connection with the tanned-hide industry which required solution.

Important Points on Which Information is Sought.

Among the points about which the commission would like to have information, he said, were the granting of loans and the guaranteeing of dividends for infant industries by the Government, concessions of lands; railway facilities, and the starting of industries by the Government, subsequently to be handed over to private companies. On the technical side it had to devise means for getting research work done, for improving the efficiency of labor, and of supervisors and managers. In their program would be included the possibility of introducing hydroelectric power. The difficulty in India was that rivers were flooded during the monsoon and dry during the hot season, and it was impossible to count on continued power. The power required would, therefore, have to be obtained by impounding water, which would cost a great deal.

The president of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, in welcoming Sir Thomas Holland, said in part:

In agriculture there are a hundred and one different ways in which improvements could be made. In the marketing of crops there are dozens of ways in which improvements could be brought about by starting small industries. There are various processes through which our crops could be put before they are

placed on the foreign markets. A few of the industries deserving of consideration are indigo, decortication of kernels, pumping plants throughout the Presidency, fiber production, treatment of cotton, bamboos, paper making, oil pressing (which has a good future before it), manufacture of cattle food from oil cakes, manufacture of manures, chemicals, and tanning extracts, soap making, fishing industry and its by-products, and tile making. It has always struck me as curious that tiles should be coming from Europe when we have all the facilities in southern India for making them. In the case of mining leases, for mica, magnesite, manganese, etc., I think more assistance might be given by the Government to capitalists than has been done in the past.

Sir Thomas Holland, replying, said the opinion was held generally that it was important to make each British country more self-contained, and not dependent on other countries for articles of vital importance. A certain amount of money was lying idle in this country and ought to be made fluid for the development of the natural resources, thereby adding to the total wealth of the country.

One problem of the commission, he said, was the creation of central technical departments which would enable the Government to continue where the commission would leave off. A scheme might well provide the Government of India with a large body of chemists of all kinds, who would be able to maintain a well-equipped central laboratory.

[A statement regarding the appointment of the industrial commission for India was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 14, 1916.]

RECENT MEXICAN TAX DECREE.

The Department of State is informed by the special representative of American interests in Mexico City, Mexico, that a decree became effective on October 22, 1916, by the operation of which taxes will be paid in national gold, silver, or the equivalent amount in paper money, according to rates established by the Treasury Department at intervals of 10 days, as follows:

1. Taxes due on inheritance donations, Bank charters, exchange houses, fishing, etc. The stamp tax imposed upon pulque to be paid either in gold or its equivalent under the law now in force.
2. Taxes on weights and measures, trade-marks, patents, public registry, pulque, tobacco, threads, and woven goods due in gold or equivalent, in accordance with provisions of the laws of the fiscal year of 1912-13.
3. Taxes due on house, real property, assessed according to their valuations, to be paid in gold or its equivalent.
4. Taxes imposed on the professions are abated 50 per cent, but are payable in gold.
5. Tax on factories, workshops, or mercantile establishments, services and rights having a municipal character is reduced to one-tenth and is payable in gold or its equivalent.
6. Taxes on property regulated according to the income yielded (except those cases in which rent is paid in gold), public amusements, revenue from documentary stamps with the exception of those dealing with gold matters, alcohol, wine, and beer, payable in paper money under the law in force.
7. Tax on transfer of dominion reduced to one-fifth, payable in gold. This tax is not reduced when relating to operations in which gold is concerned.
8. Rate to be determined by Treasury Department.
9. Such taxes as are to be paid in gold, according to the requirements of the decree of June 28, shall be payable in gold. The reduction in rates of taxation shall remain effective for a period of six months. After that time they will be equitably increased.

LANCASHIRE AND INDIA IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

Leaders of the Indian cotton industry appear to increase their concern about competition with Lancashire; but in years to come they may find it profitable to devote more attention to the activities of Japan, not only in their own country, but in China and other Far Eastern places. The goods that India takes from Lancashire are mostly cotton cloths she is not able to produce herself. As was hinted at the meeting of the British Association of Managers of Textile Works in Manchester, the trade of India may improve in future, when the manufacturers will be more a match for Lancashire mills than they are to-day.

Indian cotton mills have to confine themselves to very low counts, and most men who have had experience in the trade there are aware that many years will have to pass before this obstacle can be overcome. If it ever is removed, there will by that time be a greater demand among consumers for superior yarns and cloth from Lancashire.

Japan is likely to be India's most formidable competitor in its own and outside markets. Recently the Japanese spinners, manufacturers, and agents have shown in an unmistakable way that it is their intention to outbid Indian spinners and manufacturers.

Suggests Exhibition of Indian Goods.

One of the best suggestions made at the meeting of the British Association of Managers came from Mr. Thomas Bristol, who opened the subject of "The Cotton Trade of Lancashire and India." Mr. Bristol has had 15 years' experience in India, and he suggested that an exhibition of goods manufactured there would be of some use to us. This is true. India, as Mr. Bristol pointed out, is making progress in the number of spindles and looms; for that matter, all cotton manufacturing countries have shared in the world developments during the past two decades, and it is doubtful whether India's growth of spindles and looms has been relatively as large as that of other countries.

In this respect the area we need be the most concerned about is in the Southern States of America, where expansion has been at times of a phenomenal character. In speaking of developments in other countries, however, we seem to fall into the error of forgetting our own remarkable progress during the past 12 or 13 years.

Our weakness in future may be in the continuance of our indifference toward what other countries are doing and what is exactly wanted in foreign market. If we can change our attitude, we shall have as good a chance in the world's markets as any of our competitors. Hence the value of Mr. Bristol's suggestion for an exhibition.

During the month of September test car No. 1 of the United States Bureau of Standards tested 7 railroad track scales in the State of Indiana, 14 in Illinois, and 4 in Wisconsin, a total of 25 scales. Test car No. 2 tested 23 railroad track scales in Ohio and 5 in Pennsylvania.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.**SWITZERLAND.**

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Sept. 7.]

Although Switzerland is well supplied with fire extinguishers of many forms of construction and kinds of filling, there is nevertheless a market for apparatus which may be safer or better than that already in use. Extinguishers are used principally where there is any danger from easily inflammable materials, such as oil, gasoline, etc.

In view of the fact that personal representation and solicitation are quite necessary, and that in many cases sales can not be made without practical demonstrations, American manufacturers are advised to arrange for the sending of sample apparatus to agents here, in order that they may become familiar with it and use it for demonstration purposes.

Correspondence should preferably be conducted in the German or French language, and prices quoted in francs for goods delivered, if possible, f. o. b. European ports.

[A list of dealers in and importers of fire apparatus and fire-department supplies in the Zurich consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to File No. 80574.]

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Sept. 23.]

Domestic Manufacture Developed by War Conditions.

Since August, 1914, Switzerland has undertaken the making of fire extinguishers and many other needed manufactures. France is exporting to this country, but during the period of the war no other country has competed to any extent.

The principal makes now for sale in Geneva are the "Minimax," sent down here by a Zurich manufacturer; the "Veda," made also in Switzerland; and the "Theo," manufactured by Lanz & Co., Berne. The price of the last mentioned is 20 francs (\$3.86). It is a dry fire extinguisher, like the "Veda," while the "Minimax" employs liquid. "Le Pompier" and "La Grenade," both made in France, are also used with liquid. As a rule, fire engines and extinguishers are sold by hardware dealers and metal dealers in the warehouse line. Glasses and goggles are handled by orthopedists, while motor and horse-drawn fire engines, which are made outside of this district in the center of Switzerland, are purchased, as a rule, direct from the factory, like apparatus drawn by hand, which is used in villages.

The usual terms of sale in Geneva are from 60 to 90 days' credit, with 2 per cent discount for cash, which is considered to include payment at any time within 30 days after the invoice date. Some American firms have succeeded in selling on a stricter basis, but it is not advisable if a firm desires to do business here after the war is over. In correspondence with firms here the use of the French language is advised.

[Lists of firms in Geneva dealing in fire extinguishers, glasses, and goggles, including a list of orthopedists, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80699.]

SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 8.]

Large Increase in Sales During Past Few Years.

In spite of the practice in Spain of using a very small proportion of wood in the customary brick-and-plaster or stone edifices, there has been a large increase during the past few years of the sale of hand fire extinguishers for office and private buildings, theaters, factories, and mills. These are frequently of American manufacture and appear to fill the local requirements. The foreign manufacturers of fire extinguishers represented in Spain include German and British firms. The Pyrene and the Minimax, the latter made in Spain, are widely used as chemical extinguishers.

In correspondence with firms here, the use of Spanish is advised. American manufacturers would do well to offer prospective customers in Spain their most attractive terms of sale, which should compare favorably with those granted under normal conditions by European manufacturers. These are generally credits of from 60 to 90 days, or cash 80 days after receipt of merchandise.

[A list of dealers in fire-protection supplies at Barcelona may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80993.]

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

[Consul James B Young, Fiume, Hungary, Sept. 19]

City Has Need of Increased Number of Engines.

Four fire engines are in use in Fiume at present. These and the auxiliary vehicles and apparatus were supplied by the firms of L. Valser, of Budapest, Hungary; Csermak Ges., of Vienna, Austria; Magirus, of Ulm, Wurttemberg, Germany; Matrai & Co., of Budapest, Hungary; Benz-Gagenau, of Baden (Vienna), Austria; and Österreichische Daimler-motoren-A. G. of Wiener-Neustadt, Austria. Officials of the local fire department state that the city would like to increase the number of engines, but it is considered improbable that the number will be increased in the near future. The fire department is building an automobile fire engine for its own use.

The price paid by Fiume for a fire engine is from 2,000 to 2,500 crowns (normally \$406 to \$508, but now \$260 to \$325). This would mean that American fire engines are too expensive for this market. The fire department here is a purchasing office of the municipal government, and buys its fire engines and all apparatus. Terms of payment are arranged by special contracts.

Subcommission Acts as Purchasing Agent.

As organized, the fire department or "corps" of Fiume is commanded by a captain, and is under a commission chosen by the municipal council. This commission selects a few of its members who are competent to buy fire-fighting apparatus, and this subcommission is the purchasing agent or medium of all material for the fire department.

The pressure of the water in the mains and fire plugs in Fiume is said to be 7 atmospheres, and the diameter of the hose attachment on the fire plugs is about 2½ inches.

There are three automobile fire engines in Agram (Zagreb), the capital of Croatia. The fire engines in the other towns of Croatia and Slavonia are small. These towns also purchase directly from firms in Budapest and Vienna.

The principal firms manufacturing fire engines and fire-fighting apparatus in Austria-Hungary are: Gräf & Stift, Weinberggasse 70, Vienna XIX, Austria; Budapester Maschinen Anstalt, Budapest, Hungary; Fiat, Vienna, Austria; Lamin Klement, of Prague, Bohemia, Austria; Punch, of Gratz, Austria; and Klinger, of Gumpoldskirchen (Vienna), Austria.

Manufacturers Should Maintain Agencies.

Although the local fire department purchases directly when buying from Austrian, Hungarian, or German firms, it would no doubt be advisable for a foreign firm desiring to sell fire engines and fire-fighting apparatus here to have an agency of some sort in this region. Such agent would perhaps act merely in a selling capacity, finding opportunities to sell, and arranging sales. The work should not be confined to such a small area as Fiume, but might cover a certain larger extent of territory. Two firms in Fiume are in a position to deal in fire engines and fire-fighting apparatus. Each of these expresses a desire to act as selling agent for American fire engines and fire-fighting apparatus. They have not previously performed such service.

Besides the four fire engines mentioned, Fiume has the following auxiliary fire-fighting vehicles: Two carts known as "carri di salvataggio," which, besides carrying ladders, etc., also act as ambulances, and have stretchers; three hose carts used for fires in remote places along the coast within or beyond the city limits, where there is not the normal supply of water or the pressure of the water is low, and two extension-ladder carts. There are also fire extinguishers, mostly of the Minimax brand. The fire department is prepared to consider other makes.

Firms Supplying Various Classes of Apparatus.

The "carri di salvataggio" were made by the firm of T. Csermak, of Vienna, and the extension-ladder carts were furnished by the firm of Magirus of Ulm, Germany. The firm of Matrai, of Budapest, supplies almost all of the accessories used by the fire department of Fiume.

All the potable water of Fiume is supplied by the city waterworks, known as the acquedotto Ciotta.

The regulations of 1907 governing contracts for supplying materials and goods to the city of Fiume (Sec. 17a) provide that such goods are to be purchased from domestic firms (i. e., Hungarian firms), if it is possible to obtain from domestic firms the quality of goods desired punctually and without considerable difference in price. This restriction is, however, more apparent than real, as some of the firms supplying the city of Fiume with fire engines and similar products are either foreign firms or branches of foreign firms, and a large proportion of the goods supplied by them to the city is of foreign make, i. e., Austrian or German. Much of the material required by the city in this line may not be produced in Hungary, or, if produced, is frequently inferior in quality. As these regulations re-

stricting public contracts of foreign firms in Fiume state that goods to be supplied to the city are to be acquired from domestic firms so far as possible, they do not absolutely require that the goods be of domestic manufacture. A Hungarian firm acting as selling agent of a foreign firm would seem to overcome those restrictions, being a domestic firm.

[The names of the two firms in Fiume in a position to deal in fire engines and fire-fighting apparatus may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80045.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

[Consul Lorin A. Lathrop, Cardiff, Wales, Sept. 16.]

Various Types of Extinguishers in Use in Wales.

Several different types of fire-extinguishing appliances are on the market in the Cardiff consular district, and most public buildings, stores and schools and many private dwellings have such appliances ready for service. One of the types most in use is the hand grenade, consisting of a bottle containing liquid, which is thrown into the center of a fire. These sell at \$7.30 to \$9.73 per dozen. Another is a metal can in the shape of a cone with a capacity of 2 gallons, which sells at retail from \$7.30 to \$9.73.

A third type is fitted with stop tap and small hose pipe and nozzle. It is made in different sizes—the 1-gallon capacity, in japanned steel, retails at \$9.73; in polished copper, at \$14.60; 2-gallon capacity at \$14.60 and \$19.46; 3-gallon capacity at \$15.80 in steel and \$21.90 in copper. Still larger sizes are made for conveyance by small hand trucks, but are not very commonly in service. There are also some dry-powder extinguishers, which retail at prices ranging upward from \$1.21.

Good Field for Trade After the War.

No doubt when the war is over this consular district should constitute a good field for enterprise in competition with the appliances already on the market. The retail dealers here require as their profit from 30 to 40 per cent of the retail price, and wholesale dealers require a further discount, which would leave at least 10 per cent after paying all expenses. Most of the dealers in the district prefer to purchase from some wholesale import house in London or Liverpool through the traveling salesmen, who make regular visits.

It is possible that some of the leading firms might be disposed to take up a wholesale agency if satisfactory terms could be arranged, especially as there is a direct steamer service carried on by Messrs. Furness Withy & Co. (Ltd.), whose agency is on Broadway, New York.

[A list of dealers in fire-extinguishing appliances in the consular district of Cardiff, Wales, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80805.]

Consul E. Verne Richardson reports that the municipality of Moncton, New Brunswick, has just completed a new city hall which will provide accommodations for the public offices, the market, and probably the law library.

POTATO CROP IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 24.]

The Provincial Secretary for Agriculture is quoted as stating that the potato crop in New Brunswick is about 10 per cent smaller than in 1915. The estimate given by him is 7,300,000 bushels from 40,000 acres, compared with 8,384,951 bushels from 41,217 acres in 1915. In a recent letter to the American consulate, one of the largest potato shippers stated that the f. o. b. price was then 80 cents per bushel in carload lots, and that the smaller crop was probably due to lack of potash in the fertilizers used. This element was very scarce at the time of planting in the spring of 1916. The price has gone up so early in the season that farmers have exported in greater quantities than usual up to this time.

Greatly Increased Shipments of Turnips.

A big crop of turnips was produced this year in the St. Stephen district, and large shipments are being made to the United States. Invoices certified at this consulate from July 1 to October 23, 1916, represent shipments of turnips amounting to 116,137 bushels, valued at \$38,865, compared with only 3,833 bushels, worth \$852, for the corresponding period in 1915, and 2,033 bushels, worth \$494, for the corresponding period in 1914. The local wholesale price is now 30 cents per bushel in carload lots. Most of the shipments for the United States go to Boston.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Gracey, Wilbur T.	Seville, Spain.	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City, Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guyana.	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark.	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany.	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon.	Dec. 25	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany.	...do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.	Quebec, Ontario.	...do....	Do.
Waddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece.	Dec. 30	Do.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.	...do....	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

SANTOS COFFEE SHIPMENTS IN 1915.

[Compiled in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from official Brazilian statistics.]

The following table shows the exports of coffee from Santos, Brazil, to the principal countries of destination in the calendar years 1913, 1914, and 1915, in bags of 60 kilos, or 132.28 pounds:

Countries.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>
Argentina.....	149,445	116,455	160,000
Austria-Hungary.....	764,458	236,677	.....
Belgium.....	334,958	163,982	.....
Canada.....	9,750	6,550	550
Denmark.....	21,930	60,909	836,283
Egypt.....	36,499	30,970	128,326
France.....	1,576,405	798,961	1,606,678
Germany.....	1,686,783	578,890	.....
Italy.....	181,592	466,601	637,238
Netherlands.....	1,471,557	1,087,011	1,968,069
Norway.....	11,376	61,802	467,388
Portugal.....	571	102	3,925
Spain.....	96,053	86,009	93,139
Sweden.....	142,446	332,072	1,474,204
United Kingdom.....	237,509	305,153	362,213
United States.....	3,464,326	4,192,829	5,678,066
All other countries.....	53,668	23,004	11,668
Total	10,220,245	8,493,557	12,119,741

MOTOR-BOAT RACE IN BANGKOK.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam.]

A motor-boat race was held on the Bangkok River on August 27, and the special interest attached to this race was the fact that most of the motors in use on this occasion were attachable row-boat motors supplied from United States, fitted to ordinary local-made boats. The race was arranged for by the harbor master of Bangkok, and 5-horsepower motors took part in class 1, 3-horsepower in class 2, and 2-horsepower in class 3. Twenty boats participated in the race, and of these those furnished with American motors came out first, second, and third in all the classes but class No. 1, in which the second place only was won.

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK IN GENOA.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Italy, Oct. 10.]

The National City Bank of New York opened its branch in Genoa on Monday, October 9, 1916. The branch bank has a capital of 6,400,000 lire (\$1,235,000). In addition to conducting a general banking business, it intends to provide commercial ratings and extend various other facilities to American exporters and to furnish information about the markets of the cities in which the parent bank already has branches. The inauguration of this bank, said to be the first American national bank in Europe, is regarded as an important step in bringing about closer financial relations between the United States and Italy and in the development of trade between the two countries.

INCREASED TOURIST TRAVEL IN NORWAY.

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Oct. 5.]

According to an article in *Bergens Tidende*, a local newspaper, tourist travel in Norway this year has been about double what it was in 1915. Most of the travelers were Norwegians, who frequently tour their own country, making long round trips. This is considered an indication of prosperous times.

Much of the travel has been in the Sogn, Hardanger, and Geiranger districts, and to places on the Bergen-Christiania Railway. Tourist travel in Nordland has been about normal. Tourist ships do not run on account of war conditions. The large eastern districts of Valdres, Gudbrandsdalen, Österdalen, and Hallingdalen have shared in the tourist activities. Everywhere the hotels have been full, and the volume of business is still undiminished.

Among the foreign tourists Danes and Swedes are most numerous. It has become more and more common for them to take trips in Norway. The numbers almost double in successive years.

Russian Traffic Very Heavy—Ticket Speculation.

Through traffic to and from Russia is very heavy. All trains, all sleeping cars, are fully occupied every day. Christiania has become one of the principal stations for a large volume of traffic between western and eastern Europe, and it is not only Russians who travel this way but Frenchmen, Americans, Italians, Greeks, Roumanians, and Japanese. Some Norwegians also have begun to travel to Russia on business.

Traveling on the Christiania-Petrograd-Vladivostok route has shown so great an increase that speculation in tickets on the Siberian express has begun. Only one express train runs per week, and it has repeatedly happened that travelers had to wait several weeks, when they had not taken care to obtain places in time.

Many Norwegians travel to foreign countries at present. Most of them go to Copenhagen, a favorite trip in the autumn; others to Stockholm, Berlin, and London.

Hunting of Chinchilla Prohibited in Chile.

Consul General L. J. Keena, at Valparaiso, Chile, has transmitted a translation of a law that prohibits in that country the hunting of the chinchilla and the sale and exportation of chinchilla skins for a period of five years. This translation can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 81365.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 843 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Repairs to vessel, No. 3765.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Baltimore, Md., until December 1, 1916, for docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing light vessel No. 91. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

Post-office construction, No. 3766.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 11, 1916, for the construction of the United States post office at Eureka Springs, Ark. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of site at Eureka Springs, Ark., or the above-named office.

Planting trees, shrubs, etc., No. 3767.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 4, 1916, for planting trees and shrubs, etc., on the grounds of Federal buildings in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Washington, and California, in accordance with plans and specifications, copies of which may be obtained from the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3768.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 21, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the United States post office at Bonne Terre, Mo. Drawings and specifications may be obtained after November 15, 1916, from the custodian of site at Bonne Terre, Mo., or at the above-named office.

Boilers, No. 3769.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Detroit, Mich., for constructing two boilers for the lighthouse tender *Martgold*. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

Vessel, No. 3770.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C., until January 8, 1917, for constructing, by contract, one ammunition ship. Circulars of information, forms of proposal, etc., may be obtained from the above-named office.

Bell buoys, No. 3771.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until November 15, 1916, for furnishing eight bell buoys. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

Lard, No. 3772.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermasters Corps, United States Army, 115 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until November 6, 1916, for furnishing on or before November 16, 1916, 20,000 pounds of lard.

Acetylene gas generators, No. 3773.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 32 acetylene gas generators. Further information will be furnished upon application to the above-named officer.

Switchboards, No. 3774.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 8, 1916, for 12 electric switchboards.

Furnishing rock, etc., No. 3775.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing and placing 3,000 tons of rock around Sand-Island Light Station, Ala. Further information may be obtained from the above-named officer.

Medical supplies, No. 3776.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 9, 1916, for furnishing acacia, acetic acid, aspirin, calcium chloride, chloroform, equinine, iodine, menthol, oleum cadmium, paraffin, pepsin, sodium bitartrate, strychnine sulphate, alum, corks, gauze, catgut suture, surgical needles, glass shells for vaccine points, crash toweling, wire for hypodermic needles, nightgowns, and eye shades, etc.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officer; † reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ reports received direct by the Bureau.

Aerial tramways, etc., 22898.

Bags, paper, 22887.

Bars, tubes, sheets, and wire, 22899.

Chain, brass, 22891.

Chemicals, 22888.

Clothing, 22896.

Confectionery, 22897.

Cooking oil, 22900.

Corn meal, 22887.

Dry goods, 22896.

Farm implements, 22900.

Feed stuffs, 22889.

Fish, 22887, 22896.

Flour, 22887.

Fruit preserves, 22896.

General agency, 22900.

Groceries, 22896.

Hardware, 22888, 22905.

Insecticides, 22888.

Lanterns, 22897.

Lard, 22896.

Linoleum and oilcloth, 22890.

Machinery, 22894.

Novelties, 22888.

Paints and brushes, 22897.

Paper, wrapping, 22887.

Potato flour, 22892.

Preserves, 22887, 22896.

Quarry equipment, 22898.

Rice, 22896.

Silver-plated ware, 22897.

Soaps and perfumes, 22887, 22897.

Sugar, 22896.

Tapioca flour, 22892.

Toys, 22897.

Yarns, cotton, 22898.

22887.†—A firm of commission merchants in Porto Rico desires to represent American manufacturers of soap, preserves, flour, corn meal, canned salmon, wrapping paper, and paper bags.

22888.*—A business man in Uruguay wishes to communicate with manufacturers of insecticides, hardware specialties, and novelties. Correspondence in English.

22889.†—A wholesale firm in Switzerland dealing in flour and feed is in the market for mill feedstuffs for cattle and hogs.

22890.*—An agency for oilcloth and linoleum is desired by a business man in a foreign colonial possession. Initial requirements, 25,000 square yards. References.

22891.*—A commercial organization in the United Kingdom desires to communicate with manufacturers of brass chain, running about 8 links to the inch, each link about three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter. The brass wire from which chain is made is a fraction less than one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. Chain is to be used on fraternal regalia.

22892.†—A man in Canada asks the Bureau to put him in touch with manufacturers of potato flour and tapioca flour.

22893.*—A firm in Norway wishes to secure the agency for American cotton yarn. Correspondence in English. References.

22894.*—A firm in Spain wishes to communicate with manufacturers of machinery for extracting phosphorus from bones.

22895.*—A man in Central America is in the market for light general hardware. Quotations f. o. b. New York or New Orleans. References.

22896.*—A merchant in South America wishes to receive catalogues, prices, etc., of general merchandise, including groceries, rice, sugar, lard, fish, fruit preserves, dry goods, and clothing. Correspondence and catalogues, etc., in Spanish.

22897.*—A wholesale firm in East Africa wishes to receive catalogues, with prices and discounts given on confectionery, lanterns, paints and brushes, silver-plated hollow ware, soaps and perfumes, and toys.

22898.†—The owner of a stone quarry in France wishes to interest American capital for the purpose of purchasing additional equipment, consisting of aerial tramways, motor or rail transport facilities, to replace horse-drawn vehicles now used.

22899.*—A merchant in Spain desires to represent American manufacturers of tubes, sheets, bars, and wire of all kinds of metal. Correspondence in English. References.

22900.†—A man in the Far East would like to represent an American manufacturer of cooking oil and other household necessities, as well as farm implements and other articles for which a market may be found.

PRINCETON IN COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 261 Washington, D. C., Monday, November 6 1916

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PROPOSED INCREASE IN BRAZILIAN DUTIES.

The American ambassador at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, reports that the Chamber of Deputies is referring to the Senate the budget law for 1917, which provides for an increase of about 25 per cent in the consumption tax (imposto de consumo) on both foreign and domestic shoes. The proportion of the customs duties on all imports payable in gold is increased by the new budget law to 55 per cent.

[At present Brazilian duties are payable 60 per cent in paper milreis and 40 per cent on a gold basis. The effect of the new provision, if enacted, will be to increase somewhat the actual duties levied. The amount of this increase will vary, according to the rate of duty, but will probably in no case exceed 12 per cent of the present duties, taking the present value of the milreis (12 pence, \$0.24), as the basis of calculation.]

MODERN BAKING MACHINERY INSTALLED AT MONCTON.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 27.]

A new bakery has just been opened in Moncton in which are installed the most modern appliances for the sanitary production of bread on a large scale. The building is 94 feet long by 40 feet wide, divided into three departments, the baking room, storage rooms, and retail store.

In the first mentioned, which is probably as complete as any similar establishment in the Province, is a patent gas oven built by a Chicago company. Its daily capacity is 20 barrels of flour. A bread-moulding machine, produced in Ontario, of the latest type, capable of an output of 5,000 loaves per diem, is employed to the exclusion of all handwork. This appliance is driven by an electric motor.

After the bread comes from the oven it is placed in galvanized cooling racks and when cold is wrapped in waxed paper for delivery to the consumer.

The entire plant is heated by natural gas, with a supplementary equipment of hot-water pipes.

CATTLE RAISING IN CUBA.

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul, Habana, Oct. 27.]

Many inquiries have been received at the Habana consulate general from Americans who desire information as to the possibilities of success in the cattle-raising industry in this country. Therefore it is opportune to submit the following report prepared by an American who for 14 years was directly engaged in this business under very favorable conditions in the eastern end of the island:

At the close of the Spanish-American war, Cuba was practically without cattle, and importations commenced in 1899 from the United States, Mexico, South America, Porto Rico, and some from the smaller West Indies; mostly grown thin steers were brought from South America and female stock from other places. The thin steers weighing about 700 pounds upon arrival, would gain 300 pounds on the good pastures here in five months, and the net gain per head was about \$10. The price of beef cattle from 1900 to 1904 was about 6 to 6½ cents per pound on the hoof; cows, \$60; bull yearlings, \$25, etc.

About 1905 the country was overstocked with cattle; exportation is impracticable because the supply is too small to properly fit out the refrigerator carriers for dressed meats, and the grass-fed live cattle lose too much in transit. The price began to fall in 1906, and at this period beef was selling from 3 to 3½ cents a pound, cows \$25, yearlings \$8 to \$12, etc. These conditions continued, and at times there was no demand until all kinds of female stock was being slaughtered daily, and in 1913 a scarcity was felt, and since then prices of all kinds of cattle have gradually risen until present sales are at 6½ to 7 cents for beef, \$55 for cows, \$25 for bull yearlings, etc.

Prices of Pasture Land—Cattle Pests.

Prior to 1901 good pasture land was worth about \$3 per acre; to-day the same quality will cost from \$15 to \$20 an acre. Good ranch land is scarce at present, but might be found in the Provinces of Camaguey and Oriente at the above prices. The other Provinces of the island are not rich in grazing lands.

There are several native perennial grasses used for grazing, but Guinea and Para (or Parana) grass are the only ones of good value for pasture. If the usual rains occur, the grass grows and gives good feed every month in the year, but pastures must be fenced and allowed to recuperate a month or two from time to time in order not to kill them out in times of unusual drought. The rainfall here is about 57 inches, and the dry season extends from November to March, during which time the average rainfall is from one to three inches.

Good fenced pasture land can maintain 16 head of cattle on a caballeria of land (33½ acres) the year round.

Black leg is prevalent in Cuba in all cattle less than 30 months old. Anthrax is not unknown, and constant care must be given cattle, especially young stock, to cure screw worms caused by blow-flies depositing eggs in any slight open wound on an animal. The former is easily controlled by vaccination, the second is not serious, and the latter is a matter for constant care, but easily managed.

Abundance of good river water is often found in pastures in Oriente Province, but parts of Camaguey depend on wells; this is a very important feature when buying ranch land.

The climate of Cuba is subtropical, and although the sun is hot it is always tempered by the cool trade winds, and the thermometer never falls below 50 in the winter.

The majority of cattle in Cuba to-day are of crosses between the imports given in the first part of this report and bulls originally from Africa and India; the cows will weigh about 800 pounds, and good range three-year-old steers will average 925 pounds. Some good breeds have been imported from the United States and, in a small way, are improving the present cattle here.

The present is a poor time to buy ranch land or cattle in Cuba, because both are at exceptionally high prices.

In order to succeed in the cattle-raising industry here it is necessary for the owner to speak Spanish and to have had a year or two experience in the business in this country. Hired help can not be depended on to conduct the business without the personal supervision of the owner.

Imports of Meat into Cuba.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the imports of salt, fresh, canned, and jerked beef into Cuba during the fiscal years 1914 and 1915:

Kind and whence imported.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
SALT BEEF.				
United States.....	<i>Pounds.</i> 89,941	\$6,489	<i>Pounds.</i> 78,291	\$6,829
Uruguay.....	2,468	236		
Total.....	92,409	6,725	78,291	6,829
FRESH BEEF.				
United States.....	66,999	7,606	112,010	10,299
CANNED BEEF.				
United States.....	57,277	10,382	35,899	5,640
France.....	158	36		
United Kingdom.....	307	54		
Total.....	57,742	10,472	35,899	5,640
JERKED BEEF.				
United States.....	1,498,762	174,664	136,411	17,089
Argentina.....	6,829,067	870,295	3,744,766	545,056
Uruguay.....	14,426,820	1,690,534	11,617,423	1,575,497
Venezuela.....	62,780	10,992		
Total.....	22,808,429	2,746,485	15,498,600	2,137,642

[A report on stock raising in Cuba was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 20, 1916.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Gracey, Wilbur T.....	Seville, Spain.....	Oct. 30	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 409, Customhouse, New York City. Nov. 1-7.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Chum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, until Dec. 17.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon..	Dec. 25	127 West Ormsby Avenue, Louisville, Ky., until Nov. 10.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany..	..do...	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Wilfrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	..do...	Do.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	..do...	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

IMPORTS OF HOSIERY INTO SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg.]

The retail prices of men's and women's hosiery in the Johannesburg consular district vary according to the material of which they are made. All grades are worn, ranging from the cheapest to the finest. The heavier grades are more commonly used in South Africa than the costlier articles. As a rule, the prices range from 25 to 50 cents per pair for cotton hosiery; while it increases from 60 to 75 cents for lisle or artificial silk. Silk hosiery for men sells from \$1 to \$3.50, while the same grade for women retails from \$1.45 to \$4. Extra-fine silk stockings range in price from \$4.85 to \$6.20 per pair.

Imports of American goods into this consular district are made through the ports of East London, Port Elizabeth, Durban, and Lourenço Marquez. The two last-named ports are favorable for the importation of goods destined either to this city or points farther into the interior.

At present most buyers are paying cash against documents in New York and have, in the past, largely met payments by means of sight drafts.

Country of Origin of Hosiery and Underclothes.

There are no separate statistics of the imports of hosiery. They are included under the general heading of underclothes. The following figures by countries of origin will probably be of interest to those interested in the South African market:

Kinds and country of origin.	1914	1915	Kinds and country of origin.	1914	1915
Hosiery, including underclothes, manufactured of cotton material			Hosiery, including underclothes, manufactured of wool:		
United Kingdom.....	\$2,676,483	\$2,962,891	United Kingdom.....	\$401,515	\$411,049
France.....	17,612	15,383	Germany.....	29,116	1,737
Germany.....	258,216	30,825	United States.....	5,289	6,490
Italy.....	25,249	30,466	Other countries.....	14,612	11,044
Switzerland.....	27,768	45,668			
Japan.....	149,616	397,038	Total.....	450,512	430,310
United States.....	76,243	232,910			
Other countries.....	23,92	10,418			
Total.....	3,254,479	3,725,589			

The United Kingdom is the principal country that supplies South Africa with goods of this kind. Out of a total importation of cotton hosiery (including underclothes) valued at \$3,254,479 in 1914 that country supplied \$2,676,483. Germany ranked second with \$258,216, with Japan as a strong competitor, while the United States only furnished \$76,243 worth.

The value in the importation of these goods in 1915 increased \$471,110 over 1914. While some of the most important articles of import decreased materially during 1915 as compared with the previous years, the steady increase should denote the importance of this market to the American manufacturer and exporter.

The principal source of cotton hosiery (including underclothes) for 1915 was again the United Kingdom, whose shipments increased by \$286,408. Imports from Germany were \$227,391 less in 1915 than in the previous year. Japan and the United States showed appreciable gains of \$247,422 and \$156,667, respectively.

There is undoubtedly a large field for American manufacturers of hosiery in this market, and its importance should cause a thorough study and investigation.

Limited Supplies of Hosiery—Duties.

Importers of these goods have informed the writer that the supply of many grades of hosiery is now relatively small, and that they are having difficulty in getting the kinds of goods that they are accustomed to sell. For this reason many merchants have endeavored to establish trade relations with Japan.

Although the heavier grades of hosiery are most commonly used here in connection with heavy walking boots, a fairly light grade of reasonably fine texture, possessing durability and reasonableness of price, would probably find a ready sale in this consular district.

The customs tariff for the Union of South Africa provides, under item 193, Class VI, an ad valorem duty of 20 per cent upon hosiery, with a rebate of 3 per cent upon goods manufactured in the United Kingdom or reciprocating British colonies.

[A list of department stores and hosiery and underwear dealers in the Johannesburg consular district can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 81342.]

MOVING PICTURE FILMS FOR SOUTH AMERICA.

Arrangements are being made by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce to exhibit in South America a number of selected films showing typical American manufacturing processes, welfare work in industrial institutions, and other details of economic life in this country. In recent years South Americans have become better and better acquainted with the facilities of the United States for furnishing them manufactured products, but it is felt that many of them are yet only slightly acquainted with the industrial development of this country. It is to further education along these lines that the Bureau proposes to make use of these motion-picture films.

The commercial attachés in South America will have charge of the exhibition of these pictures, making arrangements to have them shown in the motion-picture houses of their respective localities. The films will be obtained from the Bureau of Commercial Economics, an unofficial organization with headquarters in Washington, which has on hand a large number of films showing various phases of American industry. According to present arrangements between this Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Economics, the latter is to supply the films which it thinks will be most educative and most interesting, and this Bureau will inspect them and perhaps make a further selection and send the films which it thinks most desirable to the commercial attachés.

It is hoped that the exhibition of these pictures will be introductory to a much more extended campaign by which American manufacturers may have their films displayed for advertising purposes. Plans for an arrangement by which this can be effected are being formed, but no definite announcement can be made until further advices are received from the commercial attachés.

INCREASED SALES OF AMERICAN HARDWARE IN PERU.

Conditions produced by the European war have been particularly favorable to American hardware manufacturers in the markets of Peru. Their position there has been considerably strengthened, even in the face of curtailed purchases during the war period. The United States already occupied a favorable position, for in the normal year 1913 Peru's imports of that class of goods were valued at \$2,617,007, and of the total amount this country furnished \$1,040,749 worth. England's share was \$852,357, and that of Germany was \$479,964. These were the nearest rivals.

A report on sales of American hardware in this South American country has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as the third of a series on the hardware markets of the world. It emphasizes the fact that the excellent reputation for quality previously established for our hardware has greatly assisted American manufacturers and exporters in the Peruvian field since the war started.

This third report in the series, like the first two, is concerned with the general conditions governing the hardware trade and with the practical details concerning the sale of each particular article of hardware. Among the chapters are: Extent to which hardware is used; General factors affecting American trade; Features of goods that win favor; System of conducting trade; Methods of entering markets; Packing; Credit information; Usual method of financing sales; and 15 chapters on particular lines of hardware, such as artisans' tools and supplies, mining tools, agricultural hardware, cutlery, builders' hardware, and shelf hardware.

"Peruvian Markets for American Hardware," Miscellaneous Series No. 39, contains 64 pages, and may be purchased for 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

PERUVIAN STEAMSHIP LINE OPENS OFFICE IN COLON.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Oct. 20.]

The Peruvian Steamship Co. (Compañía Peruana de Vapores y Dique de Callao) has established its own agency on the Isthmus of Panama, with its head office in Colon, where communications should be addressed to the general agent of this company. It has opened an office also in the city of Panama. The Peruvian Line maintains a service between Cristobal, Canal Zone, and West Coast ports as far south as Callao, with sailings each way about once a week.

SELLING PRICE OF OPIUM IN PERU.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Oct. 2.]

The importation and sale of opium in Peru has been a Government monopoly for many years. It is sold to the retail dealers of Lima by the Compañía Recaudadora de Impuestos (National Tax Collecting Co.). Prior to September 27, 1916, the retail price of opium here was 49 soles (\$23.84) for each 460 grams. On September 28 the Minister of Finance issued an order increasing its price to 60 soles (\$29.19) per 460 grams.

OUTPUT OF QUININE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India.]

The 1915-16 report on the Government cinchona plantations on the Nilgiris Hills in the Madras Presidency has just been issued and shows that the outturn of quinine during the year was 32,688 pounds, as against 29,422 pounds in 1914-15. The quality was slightly inferior to that of the previous year, owing to the poor quality of locally purchased bark and the decreased yield of Java bark, which had been some time in stock. The advance in the price of bark raised the average manufactured cost of a pound of quinine from \$2.60 to \$3. Medical depots pay \$5.50 a pound, but Government institutions, Native States, local-fund hospitals, and municipal dispensaries obtain it at prices ranging from \$4.25 to \$5 a pound, according to the quantity taken.

A total of 49,681 pounds of quinine sulphate was issued during the year, as compared with 41,865 pounds in 1914-15. This increase was due, it is stated, to large demands from the medical stores of Madras and Bombay, but the Central Provinces and certain Native States, especially Rajputana, also purchase considerable quantities. The Government furnishes to post offices 7-grain packets of quinine, which are sold for half a cent each and are thus within the reach of the people of the country generally. The department is now starting the manufacture of quinine tablets. The Government, in its review, says that the question of opening new plantations is still under consideration.

Centers of Production in India.

There are two centers of the quinine-manufacturing industry in India, the Nilgiris Hills, in the Madras Presidency, and Darjeeling, in Bengal. The possible and, on occasion, the actual annual output of the latter place is about 50,000 pounds of quinine. In both localities a portion of the area under cinchona is owned by coffee or tea planters, and the bark they produce is either sold to the Government or exported.

Several species of cinchona are cultivated in India, namely, *Cinchona succirubra* (red bark), *C. calisaya* and *ledgeriana* (yellow bark), and *C. officinalis* (crown bark). The commonest species in Darjeeling is *C. ledgeriana* and in Southern India *C. officinalis*. A hybrid form is also largely grown and is said to yield a good bark. At the Government factories both cinchona febrifuge and quinine sulphate are made. As a result of the acclimatizing of the cinchona plant in India the annual imports of the drug on behalf of the Government have been discontinued. In Southern India the three Government cinchona plantations cover an area of 1,793 acres, of which 1,149 are under cultivation. The acreage under cinchona in 1913 on private estates in Southern India was approximately as follows: Madras Presidency, 2,486; Travancore, 2,085; Coorg, 176; Mysore, 48; total, 4,795 acres.

The Government sources of supply are (1) bark from its own plantations, (2) bark purchased locally, and (3) bark purchased from Java, the last-named being considered of especially good quality. No bark was purchased from Java during the year just ended, but the other sources supplied 352,165 pounds and 318,958 pounds,

respectively. The amount supplied by the Government plantations was the result of an economical use of uprooted trees, almost all the plantation bark being taken from this source.

Export Trade—Cinchona Introduced from South America.

The exports of bark were 3,290,236 pounds in 1899–1900, 1,579,498 pounds in 1902–3, and 494,587 pounds in 1906–7. These went almost exclusively from Southern India and to the United Kingdom. Exports from the Madras Presidency in 1914–15 were 642,987 pounds, valued at \$46,558, all to the United Kingdom. According to statistics prepared in 1908 there were said to be in the world then 18 quinine factories—5 in France, 3 in England, 2 in Germany, 1 in Holland, 4 in America, 2 in India, and 1 in Java. The world's demands for bark, it is said, average 14,000,000 to 18,000,000 pounds. Java planters produce about 80 per cent of the world's bark, and the modern trade centers mainly in Amsterdam.

Cinchona plantations were started in India in 1862 from seed introduced from South America. Cinchona is grown from seed or propagated from cuttings. When the trees are 15 to 25 years old the crop is harvested, and this may be done in several ways. The trees may be copped, in which case fresh shoots spring up and are allowed to grow, and these in time are again copped, and so on, or the bark may be shaved off the standing trees, as near the cambium as possible without injuring it. The bark quickly renews if this work is done carefully. Finally the trees may be cut down and all the bark stripped from them, the stumps unrooted, and the bark stripped from the roots. Plantations treated in this way give the largest yield of bark and can be replanted. The bark, however obtained, is dried slowly in the sun, packed in bags, and sent to the factory or market.

SALVAGE OF SUNKEN SHIPS.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 14.]

Interest has been aroused here in technical circles by a recent lecture at the Club de Engenharia (Engineers' Club) of Rio de Janeiro, by Dr. Sylvio Pellico Portella, concerning his invention for the salvage of sunken ships. It is claimed by him that the invention is applicable to ships sunk at almost any depth, so long as divers are able to reach them, and that it is effective in putting a wreck afloat, no matter what its position on the sea floor.

The invention consists of a tender of special model, which is equipped with floats of waterproof material. These are neatly folded, but later when inflated with air they assume all sorts of shapes—parallelopipedons, spheres, cylinders, etc. They are carried down by divers and attached to various portions of the sunken vessel, both within and without, still retaining their connection by means of hose with the tender ship. When all are properly fastened in place they are inflated by air pressure from above, like the tires of an automobile. As they swell they are said to gradually displace the water within and about the wreck, and it is said that by their own buoyancy they float it to the surface.

The claim is made that the invention had two trials in Paris.

FIRST BRAZILIAN ODONTOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 10.]

Yesterday was held in this city the first meeting of the organizing commission of the First Brazilian Odontological Congress. Delegates from the various dental schools of the country were present in considerable number. One of the principal points which the Congress has under consideration is a remodeling of the dental course afforded to students here and an increase in the requirements for obtaining a license to practice. One of the proposed new requirements is that the student shall be obliged to show a knowledge of the English language.

While it is quite possible to study dentistry in Brazil, and while many do so successfully, it is remarkable how many Brazilian dentists at present practicing in the country have obtained their professional education in the United States. It seems quite evident that the study of the French language, which is thoroughly generalized through Brazil, has had much to do with the enormous purchases of French technical books, instruments, etc. It is certainly a favorable symptom to see English obtaining a recognition that may tend to increase not only the prestige of the United States as a teaching nation but the exchange of commodities as well.

Market Desired for Concentrated Lime Juice.

The consul at Guadeloupe has transmitted the name of a manufacturer who is in a position to export about 15 casks of concentrated lime juice (42 gallons to the cask) and about 200 quarts of distilled lime oil. The name of the manufacturer can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 80544. Correspondence should be in French.

Business Houses in American Samoa.

Commercial Agent E. G. Babbitt has forwarded from San Francisco a list of general stores in Pago Pago, Leone, and Manu'a, American Samoa, that was furnished him by the governor of that territory. This list may be had by interested manufacturers and exporters upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 164.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1026 Ribernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., V. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

WOOLEN GOODS TRADE IN SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

The values of the imports of woollen goods into Siam for the five fiscal years ended March 31, 1916, were \$183,146 for 1912, \$109,811 for 1913, \$150,872 for 1914, \$107,274 for 1915, and \$57,700 for 1916. The principal supplies have hitherto come from the United Kingdom and Germany, and the heavy falling off in the imports of these goods for last year may largely be attributed to the cessation of the latter country's trade with Siam, there apparently being no similar goods available from other sources of supply.

The woollen goods imports are nearly equally divided between piece goods and all other woollen manufactures, and of the latter blankets and shawls form the main volume.

The climate in Siam is tropical and the lowest temperature, recorded in December or January at Bangkok, is about 52° F., and therefore only light woollen stuff is in demand.

The commercial traveler should visit Siam not later than May of each year, so that the woollen goods ordered may be received in time for the cold season. A salesman from New York who visited Bangkok during last August was told that very substantial orders would have been given if he had arrived earlier, but as it was, however, he sold enough goods here to make the visit satisfactory.

In order to establish trade connections with importers in Bangkok, a preliminary visit of a manufacturer's agent is essential, as in most instances very little attention is given to the incomplete samples that may be received.

The import duty on all kinds of woollen goods is 3 per cent ad valorem.

[A list of dealers and importers of woollen goods in Siam can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81571.]

GOOD ROADS CONGRESS IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 10.]

For some days past there has been in session in Rio de Janeiro a good roads congress that is being held under the auspices of the Brazilian Automobile Club. Users of automobiles and the automobile trade in general are viewing with considerable satisfaction the initiation of a movement of this kind in Brazil. There are relatively few highways in this vast Republic, and until now no attempt has been made at anything like a continuous system of highways of interstate character. [See "Automobile situation in Brazil" in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 19, 1916.] The result of a condition such as this has naturally been that transportation throughout the interior is exceedingly costly, which is a serious obstacle to the development of the country in a great many ways.

There is an enormous amount of very valuable lumber in Brazil which is being relatively little exploited and in which it is extremely difficult to interest foreign investors, because the trees are inaccessible and the number of profitable trees per acre can not be accurately gauged—a condition which good highways through the wooded regions would obviate. It is further argued by many Bra-

zilian thinkers that the effects of the droughts which periodically depopulate certain tropical sections of northern Brazil would be mitigated by a system of highways enabling the inhabitants to move freely between settlements. A movement that would make general the building of roads would also, in the opinion of many here, furnish remunerative labor to a great many country people who are at present idle simply because of their isolation.

Measures to be Proposed to Brazilian Legislature.

The good roads congress is proposing to petition the Brazilian Congress for the revival of many old laws that have become "dead letters" and which would help the construction and upkeep of roads. It is also going to suggest that the labor of State prisoners, properly remunerated, be employed upon road making. A further suggestion is being made to the Government that all new roads shall have their borders planted with eucalyptus or other trees that can be made industrially profitable and that the planting and conservation of these trees be made the duty of landowners whose ground abuts upon the road.

A final suggestion is being made by the congress to the Government—and this is particularly interesting to a student of the gradual progress of federalization in Brazil—that the Government bring about a general understanding among the States and municipalities of Brazil toward creating a general system of tolls whose proceeds should be applied to the upkeep of existing roads and to the construction of new ones. The task will in a certain sense be a difficult one, for although there is plainly discernible a feeling on the part of the States toward the necessity of cooperating more fully with the Federal Government, still the country is so vast that there are many differences of custom and tradition in the various regions that will first have to be reconciled.

IMPORTS OF LAMPS INTO SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

The value of the imports of lamps and parts into Siam decreased from \$131,878 in the fiscal year 1915 to \$81,063 in 1916. This decrease may be due to the cessation of supplies from some of the countries at war, whose products were not readily replaced by manufactures from other countries. But owing to the fact that lamps are not manufactured in this country and that electric lighting is still confined to Bangkok, the capital of the Kingdom, it is most likely that the imports of foreign lamps will reach the usual, if not greater, figures for the current year.

Origin of Lamp Import—Styles in Demand.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, the United States supplied \$7,633 worth of lamps and parts thereof; the United Kingdom and dependencies, \$39,284; and Japan, \$32,763.

For use in the thousands of house and cargo boats that ply on the numerous rivers and waterways in this country there is especially a good demand for lamps and lanterns of moderate price, having no chimney or wick, and that are safe in any position. Table and hanging lamps of similar construction would also find a ready market.

BRITISH POST OFFICES IN CHINA INCREASE RATES.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 15.]

The post-office department of the colonial government of Hongkong announces that commencing with the first of October foreign—that is, Postal Union—rates will obtain between British post offices in China and the United Kingdom as well as the rest of the world. Exception is made providing for local rates of postage between the several British post offices in China, and between these post offices and Hongkong and Wei Hai Wei. These local rates are substantially the same as American domestic rates.

The chief significance of the announcement lies in the fact that the alternative of this increase in rates was the suspension or abolishment of all British post offices in China, and it therefore involves the entire policy of foreign postal agencies in China. The United States has never adopted the policy of establishing its own post offices in the open ports of China with the single exception of Shanghai, where conditions were such and where American interests were such that that course was considered necessary and where the American post office, operating on domestic rates with the United States and the Philippines, has become self-sustaining. The establishment of other offices would have been practicable at times—notably at Amoy, whence most of the Chinese in the Philippines come and where a well-established postal business would have resulted almost immediately—but in other ports the matter has received scant consideration.

Change in Rates Will Help Chinese Service.

The British postal agencies in China have come to represent such a loss that the burden will no longer be carried. Under the organization of the British postal system these offices are under the control of the Hongkong post office. Until about four years ago their operation was actually under Hongkong post-office accounts and all losses were made good from the earnings of the post office here. Since that time they have been operated by the Hongkong post office but on separate account, the loss being met by the British post office. The burden of these extra services to the Hongkong establishment at times has been very heavy. The service of mail to Great Britain and continental Europe by way of Siberia is maintained by the Hongkong office at a loss of about \$35,000 gold a year. The colony's share of the mail subvention paid the P. & O. Steamship Co. also is a heavy burden. However, in most years the Hongkong post office is self-sustaining.

The entry of China into the International Postal Union also is a notable factor in the postal situation of the country at the present time. It is much to the interest of China that all foreign postal agencies in Chinese ports be abolished; and with the continued improvement being made in the Chinese postal service this is likely to become a live question in the near future, especially since it appears that most foreign postal agencies are operated at a loss. In the meanwhile the increase in rates in the British post offices brings the charges there to a level with the charges of the Chinese post office for foreign service and thus gives the Chinese post office a chance to compete with the British offices on equal terms. Aside

from the single agency of the United States at Shanghai it is generally understood that Japan is the only nation operating its postal agencies in China at a profit.

DISSOLUTION OF MAGDALENA RIVER TRAFFIC POOL.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Colombia, Oct. 14.]

The three river-steamboat companies operating out of Barranquilla on the Magdalena River formed, in August, 1914, a pool for the regulation of freight and passenger rates between Barranquilla and the interior. The pool was under a distinct management, which operated all the river boats belonging to the constituent companies and divided the profits in accordance with the pool shares held by each company. During the life of this combine freight rates have been \$14 per ton from Barranquilla to Bogota and \$10.50 from Bogota to Barranquilla, with discounts of 15 to 50 per cent on certain articles (especially Colombian products), and surcharges on certain other articles such as dynamite, powder, feathers, express packages, and some bulk cargo. Passenger rates were \$36 to La Dorado (the end of navigation on the lower Magdalena) and \$48.50 to Bogota.

A disagreement between the three companies concerning the basis of division of profits led the two smaller companies to withdraw from the arrangement and to form a new combine between themselves and another small company (owning one steamer) to be known as the Alianza de Transportes Fluviales. Announcement of the formation of the new pool was made on October 1, 1916. This new operating agreement presages a rate war against the largest company, the Colombia Railways & Navigation Co. (Ltd.). Upon the breaking up of the old pool, freight and passenger rates were immediately cut in half by the allied companies. All freight discounts were abolished; but the surcharges were maintained. The outside company met the lower rate by announcing a similar cut on freight, but it is maintaining the original passenger rates. It can do this even against strong competition, as its boats generally are better than those of the allied companies.

The Colombia Railways & Navigation Co. has 28 river steamers, with a total capacity of 5,739 tons, and 45 barges for towing, with a capacity of 2,805 tons. The opposition alliance has 14 steamers totaling 3,154 tons and 38 barges with a capacity of 1,661 tons.

TAX ON ADVERTISING IN URUGUAY.

[Vice Consul John C. Terry, Montevideo, Sept. 15.]

The Uruguayan Government has passed a law which places a tax on all classes of advertising posted in public places in the city of Montevideo. This applies to all handbills, theater programs, names printed on awnings or windows, electric signs, and street car advertising. Matter sent through the mail pays no tax.

Several commercial organizations in Montevideo have protested, and it is possible that the law may be modified to some extent. Many of the business houses in Montevideo have curtailed their advertising; and street car publicity, which was just beginning to gain popularity here, has suffered.

[A copy of this law printed in Spanish may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81580.]

RESTRICTIONS ON BRITISH PAPER IMPORTS.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Oct. 12.]

The following are the supplementary regulations regarding the restriction of British imports of paper issued by the Royal Commission on Paper:

In order to give effect to the decision of his Majesty's Government that the imports of paper must now be reduced by one-half, instead of by one-third as heretofore, the licenses issued by the commission for importations in respect of the supply allowed for the four months November, 1916, to February, 1917, will be reduced, so that the allowance for that period will be one-fourth less than it would have been if the reduction had remained at one-third.

Where a sufficient balance of the supply for that period remains to be licensed, the further reduction will be taken off that balance. Where there is no such balance or the balance is less than the required reduction, the licenses already issued for that period will be reduced by the weight necessary to make the requisite adjustment. Where this is not possible because the license has been used, the excess imported will be debited against next year's license.

No further reduction is at present being made in the weight of paper-making materials for which licenses are being issued. Buyers of paper who are entitled under the regulations of the commission to supplies of British-made paper on the basis of their 1914 purchases will still be entitled to their two-thirds supply as heretofore, but buyers who are entitled to supplies of imported paper will now only be able to have one-half of their purchases in 1914, so far as the period November, 1916, to February, 1917, is concerned. If they have already had more than their proportionate supply their rights will be adjusted in the same way as licenses will be under the preceding regulation.

It is hoped that makers of and dealers in paper will not increase the price of paper here in consequence of the reduction in the supply of foreign paper. Should, however, complaint be made and established that prices have been unreasonably advanced the commission may at once reduce or stop the supplies of the offender.

For the purposes of these regulations the word "paper" includes all kinds of paper and cardboard, including strawboard, pasteboard, and mill-pulp board, and manufactures of paper and cardboard, such as printed forms, paper for writing with printed headings, calendars, show cards, posters, labels, color and lithographic printing other than in book form, and catalogues and price lists printed for persons in the United Kingdom, and all periodical publications exceeding 16 pages in length imported otherwise than in single copies through the post.

[The original regulations restricting the importation of paper into Great Britain are contained in Foreign Tariff Rates, No. 20, p. 128.]

TASMANIAN FRUIT ON THE LONDON MARKET.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Sept. 28.]

A report on the Tasmanian fruit exports to England for the six months from January 1 to June 30, 1916, has been made by the Agent General, Sir John McCall. He states that prices, on the whole, have been satisfactory. The expenses, including the high rate of freight, exceeded by about 24 cents per case the cost in the preceding year. The excess was made up of about 16 cents in freight, 5 cents insurance (including war risk), and about 4 cents per case extra handling. Regarding the fruit itself the Agent General states:

I regret to say that the fruit has not been carried in a satisfactory condition. There were rotten apples in practically every case, with the exception of those carried in the steamships *Ceramic* and *Borranga*. In both of these steamers the apples turned out in good condition. It is assumed that the faulty fruit may be explained by the probability that some of it had to remain on the wharves awaiting shipment for a longer time than usual. Whether this is correct the shippers of Tasmania will know. The fact remains that some of

the fruit, out of the same ships and out of the same holds, was overripe, while other parts of the cargoes of the same varieties were sound and green.

The experience of growers must have taught them that there are special brands of apples suited for this market, and it would be wise for them, as far as possible, to send only those brands which satisfy the local taste and obtain the higher prices. It is hoped that in future planting orchardists will keep on the more popular classes of apples, which are Cox's Orange Pippins, the Ribston Pippins, Adam's Pearmain, French Crabs, Cleopatras, Sturmer Pippins, and Jonathans. The last mentioned comes late in the season, with a good color, and is readily salable, although early in the season the color is not nearly so good as that of the West Australian Jonathan.

TIDE TABLES FOR EASTERN NORTH AMERICA.

Atlantic coast tide tables for eastern North America giving the 1917 data have been published by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. These are reprinted from the general tide tables, a notice of which was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for October 14, 1916. The annual inequality or variation in the mean sea level is included in the predictions this year instead of being given in a separate table as formerly.

In an introduction to the publication it is explained that the table of predicted tides aims to give the times and heights of high and low water and not the times of turning of the current, or slack water. For stations well exposed to the ocean there is usually but little difference between the time of high or low water and the beginning of the ebb or flood current; but for places in narrow channels, landlocked harbors, or on tidal rivers, the time of slack current may differ by two or three hours from the time of high or low water stand, and local knowledge is required to enable one to make the proper allowance for this delay in the condition of tidal currents.

The price of the volume is 10 cents. A list of agencies of the Coast and Geodetic Survey is published in the first number for each month of the Notice to Mariners, which is issued weekly by the survey and the United States Bureau of Lighthouses. Charts, coast pilots, and tide tables are sold by these agencies, and they have chart catalogues and Notices to Mariners for free distribution.

STATE OF BAHIA WANTS RICE FACTORIES.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct. 5.]

The State Government of Bahia has offered 10 contos (approximately \$2,500 U. S. currency) and freedom from import duties on material for the space of 10 years to the first two persons who shall set up within that State a factory or factories for the hulling, polishing, and otherwise preparing for market of the native rice. This liberal provision is embodied in law No. 1178 of August 12, 1916, and certainly offers an opportunity to persons acquainted with the rice business and desirous of investing abroad. Fuller details concerning the matter can be obtained by addressing the American consulate general in Rio de Janeiro or by writing to the President of the Sociedade Nacional da Agricultura, Dr. Miguel Calmon du Pin e Almeida, at Rua Primeiro de Março 15, Rio de Janeiro.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural tractors.....	22912	Machinery, tag.....	22909
Bicycles and accessories.....	22902	Machinery, woodworking.....	22910
Books, health.....	22902	Motors.....	22910
Boots and shoes.....	22902-22908	Packing-house products.....	22903-22908
Canned goods.....	22908	Rice.....	22903-22908
Ditching machines.....	22910	Sausage casings.....	22901
Dry goods.....	22908	Sporting goods.....	22902
Farm implements.....	22905	Staples.....	22909
Flavoring extracts.....	22911	Stock foods and remedies.....	22905
Furniture.....	22908	Stump pullers.....	22910
Gut, tennis.....	22902	Surgical supplies.....	22904
Hardware.....	22908	Tobacco pipes.....	22908
Heating systems.....	22907	Veterinary supplies.....	22904, 22905
Machinery.....	22908		

22901.*—An import firm in Spain desires to secure the agency or sole right of sale in Spain for houses dealing in sausage casings. Correspondence in English. References.

22902.†—A firm in India handling sporting goods of all kinds desires catalogues and prices of bicycles and accessories, boots and shoes, gut for tennis rackets, and books on physical exercises and health topics.

22903.†—A commission merchant in Porto Rico wishes to represent American exporters of rice and packing-house products.

22904.*—A firm in New Zealand dealing in chemical supplies, etc., desires to communicate with American manufacturers of veterinary surgical supplies.

22905.*—A newly organized business firm in Venezuela announces that it will specialize in feeds and medicines for stock, veterinary supplies, farm implements, and corn mills. Correspondence and catalogues in Spanish.

22906.—A man in Canada desires to represent American manufacturers of tobacco pipes.

22907.*—A construction firm in Italy wishes to receive catalogues of heating systems, especially those using hot water.

22908.†—A firm in the Dominican Republic wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of rice, packing-house products, canned goods, shoes, hardware, furniture, machinery, and dry goods. Correspondence in English. References.

22909.*—A firm in the United Kingdom is in the market for automatic tag machinery and staples for affixing labels to wooden boxes and also binding papers. Sample of the staples may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81381).

22910.*—A trade-extension bureau in Spain desires to secure for one of its correspondents catalogues, in Spanish if possible, of machinery for pulling up stumps, light motors, ditch-digging machinery, and wood-working machinery. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

22911.*—A firm in Central America is interested in receiving prices f. o. b. New York or San Francisco on flavoring extracts, essences, and colors used for soft drinks and ice cream.

22912.†—A business man in France desires to represent an American manufacturer of agricultural tractors. Correspondence in English.

PHILADELPHIA COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 262 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, November 7 1916

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SHIPMENTS OF APPLES FOR SCANDINAVIA AND RUSSIA.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Oct. 19.]

On October 18 it was stated that no objections would be raised by the British authorities to the shipment of fresh apples to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark provided the usual guaranties were given and provided the total imports did not exceed prewar shipments for the corresponding periods. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 20, 1916.]

It has been ascertained also that fresh apples forwarded to Denmark for reexportation to Russia will not be charged against Danish imports for home consumption, and the authorities have stated to the consul general that if large shippers of apples in the United States desire to accumulate stocks in Denmark for exclusive resale in Russia, no objection will be made and the matter will not be considered in connection with the rationing scheme for the Scandinavian countries.

In order to accumulate a stock for resale to Russia in Denmark, it will be necessary that the interested concerns submit their proposed arrangements to the proper department in London and agree that under no circumstances shall such shipments be diverted from Russia for the domestic requirements of Scandinavian countries. It will not be necessary that they indicate specifically the names of their buyers in Russia when stocks are warehoused in Copenhagen, but it will be required that the particular buyer be named and the usual guaranties furnished when actual sales are made from these warehoused stocks.

Any intending shippers who desire to take advantage of this opportunity to carry on business in Russia probably would do well to communicate full information respecting their claims to the consulate general in London.

Pacific coast tide tables for 1917, covering western North America, eastern Asia, and many island groups have been reprinted from the general tide tables by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Copies may be obtained at 10 cents each from the agencies of the survey.

CUTLERY TRADE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

[Vice Consul Paul H. Cram, Marseille, Sept. 23.]

The bulk of the high-grade cutlery sold in this district is manufactured at Châtellerault (Vienne), Langres (Haute Marne), and Paris. These centers of production are apparently able to meet the demands of provincial trade, which is surprisingly good in view of an average rise of at least 25 per cent in prices. A small quantity of British cutlery is sold in this region, but the market is limited because the goods fail to conform to the requirements of French taste. The blades are too long, and a different form of handle is desired.

At present the Louis XVI and Empire styles, with round handles, are in greatest demand. Prior to the war table knives with ebony and horn handles were sold most frequently. Lately, owing to a certain rise in the price of horn, the difference in price between knives with horn and those with silver-plated handles is somewhat smaller than usual. In consequence the public shows a growing tendency to purchase the latter style, which, although costing somewhat more, is considered more economical. American manufacturers desiring to enter this field should keep in close touch with the prevailing tastes.

Some Goods Imported from Great Britain.

French cutlery, such as scissors, pocketknives and penknives, razors, and table knives of the cheaper grades, is supplied principally by the factories of Thiers (Puy-de-Dôme). A certain quantity of such goods, which are of excellent quality but command a high price, is imported from Great Britain.

If the disadvantages arising from a high import tariff in France can be overcome, American manufacturers have an excellent opportunity. There exists an actual shortage of such goods, the price of which has risen at least 30 per cent. The French customs duties on cutlery are as follows, per 100 kilos, or 220 pounds, net weight:

Cutlery.	General tariff.	Minimum tariff.	Special tariff for cutlery imported from United States.
COMMON.			
Tailors' scissors.....	30 francs (\$5.79).....	20 francs (\$3.86).....	
Kitchen and butchers' knives.....	150 francs (\$28.95)....	100 francs (\$19.30)....	
Razors, common.....	300 francs (\$57.90)....	200 francs (\$38.60)....	
Other, clasp knives, and common scissors.	450 francs (\$86.85)....	300 francs (\$57.90)....	
FINE.			
Table knives with handles of ivory or mother-of-pearl.	900 francs (\$173.70) ..	600 francs (\$115.80) ..	800 francs (\$154.40).
Other.....	720 francs (\$138.96) ..	480 francs (\$92.64)....	600 francs (\$115.80).

Cutlery imported from the United States is subject to the general tariff except in the cases indicated. Both Great Britain and Germany have enjoyed the advantages of the minimum tariff.

Terms Offered During Normal Times.

In normal times manufacturers grant from 2 to 3 per cent discount on payments within 30 days, or 90 days net. Frequently a further discount, varying from 3 to 10 per cent, according to the amount of business, is granted at the end of the year on the total purchases.

Traveling representatives, through whom purchases are made, visit the local dealers several times during the year. Representatives of German firms usually quoted prices for goods delivered in Marseille, with all charges paid including customs duties. Furthermore, they furnished the local dealers with illustrated catalogues with the text in French and the prices quoted in francs for delivery in any town in France. A catalogue of this description is forwarded.

In order to obtain satisfactory results, American manufacturers should establish general sales agencies and depots in Paris and Marseille. The Marseille agent's territory should include Southern France and the French African possessions.

A French catalogue showing the types of table knives most popular in this district (with prices on which discounts of 50 per cent are allowed, but on which there has been an increase of 25 per cent since the date of publication) is forwarded.

[The catalogues mentioned in this report may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Lists of Marseille dealers in cutlery may be obtained from these offices or from the cooperative offices of the Bureau. Refer to file No. 81275.]

Purchasing Agent for Spanish Hides and Skins.

An exporter in Spain informs an American consular officer that he desires to act as purchasing agent for American concerns interested in the purchase of Spanish hides and skins. The address of the applicant can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 80041. Correspondence may be in English.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Chum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaklson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 26	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany...	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spehr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	...do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Waddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Aug. 25.]

Importance of Correct Marking of Merchandise.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the Australian Commerce Act, which deals with trade descriptions on goods, may lead to the exclusion from that country of improperly marked articles. Cases sometimes arise where firms which have been engaged in commerce for years disregard the regulations, and it is important that American exporters familiarize themselves with these requirements. Even where the delivery of improperly marked goods is eventually permitted, the goods may be held in the customhouse for several weeks. In many cases a fine is imposed, and in the end the consignee is required to mark the goods in accordance with the regulations. Underwear and garments of all descriptions, as well as piece goods from which clothing may be made, should have a textile label attached, indicating the component materials and the country of origin. In cases where it is not possible to mark the goods, full particulars should be stamped on all boxes and packages. Where articles are composed of two or more materials, the predominating fiber or fabric should be indicated first.

In addition to clothing, the following goods must be marked in all cases: Articles of food or drink, medicines and medicinal preparations, fertilizers, jewelry, and seeds and plants. Other articles need not be marked, but if marked at all must contain no misleading statements.

[The Australian regulations under the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act are given in Tariff Series 17A and 17B, issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

SALVADOR.

[Vice Consul Lynn W. Franklin, San Salvador, Sept. 5.]

Surtax on Imports.

According to a decree dated July 10, 1916, the surtax of \$0.10 per 100 kilos on all articles imported into Salvador (see Commerce Reports for August 18, 1916), has been abolished, because of the inconvenience of collecting it, and a surtax of 1½ per cent of the import duties (payable in United States gold) has been substituted therefor.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 13.]

Regulations for Exportation of Wool.

As there seems to be some apprehension that wool exports from South Africa to America may be restricted or prohibited, a brief summary of the attitude of the Government of the Union of South Africa as expressed by the Industries Section of the Department of Mines may be of interest to American importers of wool. Wool may be exported to the United Kingdom (Great Britain) without restriction, and to British possessions by procuring a permit which is obtainable at present without question. Permits are required in the case of exports to America simply as security against the reexportation of wool

to enemy countries, and are granted by the Commissioner of Customs to approved firms without question. It is further stated that so far as the Government of the Union of South Africa is aware no difficulties have arisen in connection with exports to America and the present position regarding such trade is considered to be quite satisfactory. Exports to Japan and Italy are permissible if satisfactory guarantees are given that no part of such wool or manufactures thereof will reach the enemy.

[Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 12.]

Preparation of Invoices.

The ad valorem duties levied on goods imported into the Union of South Africa are calculated on the market price in the country of exportation rather than on the invoice value, according to the following provision contained in the customs law of 1914:

The value for purposes of duty shall be taken to be the true current value for home consumption in the open market of similar goods in the principal markets of the country from which, and at the time at which, the goods were imported, including carriage to the port of shipment and the cost of packing and packages, but not including agents' commission when such commission does not exceed 5 per cent; provided that in no case shall the value for purposes of duty, as above defined, be less than the cost of the goods to the importer at the port of shipment.

The South African customs authorities have recently emphasized the necessity for clearly distinguishing between the home market value of goods and the export prices specified in invoices. It appears to be the practice of some exporters to specify but one price (i. e., the f. o. b. or c. i. f. price to the South African importer), declaring this to be the domestic market price, although stating at the foot of the invoice that the amounts indicated include charges for packing, transportation to the port of shipment, etc.

It is suggested that exporters reserve a part of the invoice form for the ordinary commercial invoice (naming the actual f. o. b. or c. i. f. price), supplementing this by a statement that the following data are accurately given, in accordance with the requirements of the South African customs tariff:

(1) Home market value.....	_____
Less home trade discounts.....	_____
Net value	_____
Packing	_____
Rail charges	_____
Shipping charges	_____
Total	_____

[For previous article regarding invoices for shipments to South Africa, see Foreign Tariff notes No. 11, pp. 146-148.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

Certificates of Interest.

The British Board of Trade Journal for October 5, 1916, announces that, beginning October 1, 1916, certificates of interest will be required in the case of all articles imported into the United Kingdom, Australia, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, British India, and all protectorates and colonies not possessing responsible governments from most of the neutral countries

of the world, including all countries of North and South America, except the United States. These certificates are to be required in connection with the enforcement of the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1915 and must be certified by British consular officers, who will require documentary evidence that no person or persons with whom trade is for the time prohibited (i. e., persons named in the British "black list") have any interest in the goods. Articles originating in the Philippine Islands must be accompanied by such certificates.

In the case of exports from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and Switzerland a certificate of origin and interest is now required, instead of the certificate of origin formerly necessary, with a view to excluding goods of enemy origin from British markets. Articles exported from the latter countries to Canada after October 10, 1916, must be accompanied by a certificate of origin and interest.

URUGUAY NORTHERN RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, New York, Oct. 30.]

The annual report of the Uruguay Northern Railway for the year ended June 30, 1916, has just been published. Gross receipts for the fiscal year totaled \$105,437, as compared with \$92,244 for 1914-15; net receipts were \$15,957 (\$7,027 for 1914-15); other income (Government guarantee) totaled \$97,218 and \$42,159 was carried forward from 1914-15, making a final net total of \$155,314. From this sum there was deducted \$111,341 for interest, income tax, discount, etc., leaving a surplus of \$43,973. Of this surplus \$10,638 accrued to holders of perpetual-debenture stock, making their total income for the year, including 3½ per cent fixed, \$18.05 per \$487 of debenture stock. A dividend of 2 per cent was also declared on the preferred stock. The capitalization of this company consists of £100,000 (\$486,650) ordinary shares with a par value of £20 (\$97.33); \$250,000 (\$1,216,625) 7 per cent cumulative preferred stock on which approximately £380,000 (\$1,849,270) back dividends remain due; \$449,400 (\$2,187,005) perpetual-debenture stock and \$49,002 (\$238,468) 5 per cent prior-lien debenture stock.

The railway extends from Isla de Cabellos, where junction is made with the Northwestern Railway of Uruguay, to Artigas on the Brazilian frontier (71 miles). Cattle and meat products constitute most of the traffic handled.

EDIBLE BEANS IN NORTH MANCHURIA.

[Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, China, Oct. 2.]

No white beans, or beans of commerce, are grown in North Manchuria. Soya beans for oil are almost the exclusive bean crop. One variety of edible bean, however, is grown for local consumption. This is the macaroni bean, called the "little bean" by the Chinese. It is of a red-and-yellow color and is consumed solely by the Chinese. It has never been exported. It is thought that from 75,000 to 100,000 poods (1 pood=36 pounds) might be obtained in the market. The present price is 90 kopecks (or about 30 cents gold) per pood. These beans are cleaned by hand and shipped in gunny bags holding 180 pounds, or 5 poods, each. The freight from Harbin to Vladivostok is 19 kopecks, or about 6 cents gold, per pood.

AMERICAN PASTURE SEEDS IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 30.]

Several reports have been made upon the strong movement, daily gaining strength in Brazil, toward the development of the cattle industry on a large scale, with a view to bringing about steady and regular exports of large quantities of native animals.

The cattle are of Portuguese origin, and they have found vast stretches of territory to wander on. The stock is considered by several American experts to be superior to the stock that was to be found in Argentina before the processes of selection and cross-breeding were begun there.

Varying Qualities of Pastures to be Discussed.

In the cattle congress to be held on May 13, 1917, in this city, under the auspices of the National Society of Agriculture of Brazil, many cattle-raising questions are to be taken up. One of these is the relative value of pastures in various parts of Brazil. The country has very large tracts which furnish range to-day, and which could probably support 100 head of cattle where they now support one. The territory of this Republic is approximately as large as that of the United States, exclusive of Alaska. The climate, soil, and quality of the pasture land in various parts of Brazil will be important in the future development of the cattle industry. The country stretches from equatorial tropics to the cool climate in the south. East and west it ascends by terraces to a highland which gradually slopes upward to the Amazon basin. Practically all kinds of soils are to be found.

Should Interest Brazilian Cattle Breeders.

American firms dealing in grass seeds and pasture crops should be interested in this cattle congress at Rio de Janeiro. Presumably an excellent opportunity will be offered in the handsome building devoted to the congress, for an exposition in glass cases of foreign pasture-seeds, with their price lists, etc. But this is not the only sort of appeal that should be made to the Brazilian cattle breeders. Already one or two American concerns have offered silver cups to be given in the firms' names as prizes for achievements in cattle raising, at the option of the Sociedade Nacional da Agricultura. A few American companies have promised that they would prepare papers expressing their views, although it is not known at present what arrangements can be made to have these translated into Portuguese and read. Perhaps something may be done in this line, and, if so, every assistance will be rendered here.

The attention of seedsmen in the United States—particularly those who have had experience with grass seeds, nonirrigated seeds, and pasture-crop seeds generally—is invited to the advantages of their communicating with this office or of their writing directly to Dr. Miguel Calmon du Pin e Almeida (former Minister of Public Works), who is president of the Sociedade Nacional da Agricultura. His address is Rua Primeiro de Marco 15 sobrado, Rio de Janeiro.

[Articles on the Brazilian cattle industry were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 10 and Oct. 18, 1916.]

ORIENTAL PRODUCTION OF BEANS.

[Consul C. E. Gauss, Tientsin, China, Sept. 13.]

It is impossible to give statistics covering the annual crop of white beans in the Tientsin consular district, but one local export house places it nominally at 600 tons for export, and states that no doubt with a good demand this quantity would be materially increased.

Very few Chinese plant these beans as a regular crop in any considerable acreage, but in spots where it would be difficult to plant other crops, such as along fences, the beans are often found. They are usually hand picked and cleaned, and are packed and shipped in bags of 100 or 160 pounds.

The exports of white beans from all China to foreign countries in 1915 amounted to about 3,565 long tons. The Japanese, according to estimates, take about 70 per cent of the output. It is said that considerable quantities of white beans go from Japan to the United States. Some of these may have come originally from China.

The original points of export in China are Tientsin, Hankow, Chinkiang, Nanking, Shanghai, and Newchwang, with small supplies from a number of other points. Beans, including white beans, to the amount of 192 long tons, valued at \$16,800, went from Tientsin to the United States in 1915. In 1914 there were no bean shipments to the United States from this port.

Rates of Transportation to United States.

The freight rate from Tientsin to Shanghai is 4 taels per ton (about \$3.05 United States currency), and is higher by 1 tael than before the war. The ocean freight from Shanghai to New York via Panama, Suez, or the Cape, is quoted by Messrs. William Forbes & Co. in their statement to the American consulate as 162 shillings (about \$39.41 United States currency); before the war the freight was 45 shillings (\$11.95) per ton.

Only two firms have expressed any interest in possible inquiry from American purchasers of beans. An American firm here which has been engaged in the exportation of white beans states that it is already well connected on the Pacific coast and can not obtain a sufficient quantity to meet the demand. It is not therefore interested in the prospect of further business.

With the fluctuations in exchange, and in the value of silver, prices are likely to show frequent and sharp changes. The present high price of silver is not favorable to the export trade of China.

[Two samples of white beans, and one each of red beans and yellow beans, accompanied by the prices and the names of the firms supplying them, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81394. An article on the production of edible beans in Manchuria was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 7, 1916.]

[Vice Consul P. R. Josselyn, Canton, China, Sept. 16.]

Varieties Grown in Canton Consular District.

Four varieties of beans are grown in the Canton consular district—the black, the red, the yellow, and the so-called white. The white bean is called by the Chinese chu-tou, or pearl-shaped bean.

The pearl-shaped bean is grown principally in the Province of Kwangsi, although certain quantities are produced in Kwangtung, Yunnan, and Kweichow Provinces, which are within this consular

jurisdiction. These beans are cultivated along the banks of the Tso-chiang and the Yu-chiang, in Kwangsi. The best varieties are said to come from near Siang-shui and Lungchow, in the southwestern part of the Province. The actual acreage under cultivation can not be estimated, on account of the fact that the beans are not cultivated in any one district but in many places, and in small patches of from 1 to 3 mou. (The mou varies in different parts of China; in Canton 4.847 mou equal 1 acre.)

Nanning, the capital of Kwangsi, is the principal port from which beans are shipped. It must be understood, however, that substantially all of these shipments are to other ports in China, as practically none of the beans grown in southern China are exported. In fact, it is stated by Canton dealers that the production of beans in the Provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi is barely sufficient for those Provinces for a period of two months. Large amounts are imported into Canton from Dalny, Newchwang, Hankow, Shanghai, and other northern ports.

Shipments Received from Northern Ports.

The shipments of beans into the Canton district for 1914 amounted to 195,500,000 pounds, at a customs valuation of \$2,500,000, United States currency. These were sent chiefly from northern ports.

As soon as the beans are reaped they are conveyed by junks to Nanning for sale. They come in lots of from 10 to 150 and more piculs (picul = 133½ pounds). They are shipped just as they are picked, without being cleaned in any way. As a result they are mixed with dirt, sand, etc. It is stated that they are inferior to the beans produced at Newchwang, in Manchuria, or along the Yangtse Valley. The sizes, too, are very irregular. I am informed that the sellers agree to pack the beans at 50 cents per sack, canvas. The beans offered on the Canton market are fairly clean, and packed in sacks of 110 to 120 catties (catty = 1½ pounds).

The picul is the unit of weight, and beans, as well as most other articles in China, are sold on that basis. The present prices in Canton for the four varieties of beans per picul are: Yellow, \$2.42; white, \$2.51; red, \$2.20; black, \$2.41. The price at Nanning is 10 to 20 per cent below that ruling at Canton.

Increased Rates for Trans-Pacific Shipments.

The latest trans-Pacific freight tariff on beans in bags from Hongkong to San Francisco is \$18 per 2,000 pounds, and from Hongkong to Seattle, \$15 per 2,000 pounds. The rate has risen considerably during the past year in conformity with the rise in the freight rates of most other articles of export. The trans-Pacific rate on beans in February, 1915, was \$6.50 per 2,000 pounds. The export duty, which amounts to 6 candareens, equal to 4½ cents gold, per picul, must be added, besides the river freight and transshipment charges from Canton to Hongkong.

In view of the fact that exports of beans have not heretofore been taken up by export commission houses in Canton, it will be somewhat difficult to inaugurate this business. If the bean dealers in America desire to import from this consular district, it will be necessary for them to work through these firms or through firms

located in Hongkong. The only alternative would be to send a man out here to buy direct from the Chinese dealers.

[A list of the export commission houses in Canton may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81397.]

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Japan. Sept. 25.]

Japanese Production of Beans.

In 1914, 464,889 cho (1,138,978 acres) were devoted to the cultivation of soy beans in Japan, and 180,003 cho (318,507 acres) to the cultivation of red beans. No later figures of the extent of the acreage devoted to the cultivation of beans are available.

Dairen, Manchuria, is the principal port of shipment of beans in the Orient.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR DISINFECTING IMPORTED HIDES.

New and simplified regulations governing the disinfection and importation of hides, based on investigations in recent years, have been promulgated by joint action of the United States Treasury Department and the Department of Agriculture, to become effective January 1, 1917. Under these regulations the most stringent requirements are those for the exclusion of anthrax. The other diseases against which safeguards are established are foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest.

Regulations are printed for the first time governing disinfection and admission of hair, wool, bones, horns, and hoofs. Hides from countries not shown by United States consular agents or official veterinary or sanitary inspectors of the countries to be free from anthrax, if such hides are to be admitted on certificate, must be certified to have been immersed in a 1-to-1,000 solution of bichlorid of mercury for 24 hours instead of 30 minutes, as under present regulations. Hides in bales unaccompanied by certificate of freedom from anthrax, rinderpest, or foot-and-mouth disease, or by certificate of disinfection, will be admitted if such bales have been whitewashed under United States consular supervision, and the importer agrees to ship them in customs-sealed cars to a tannery provided with adequate facilities for disinfection, and to disinfect them in accordance with requirements of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture under supervision of an agent of that bureau. Sun-dried hides from countries certified to be free from anthrax will be admitted without disinfection.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FIGHTING HOOKWORM IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Oct. 19.]

The Division for Guatemala of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation is waging a successful fight for the eradication of the hookworm disease. This is apparent from the quarterly report, issued under date of October 2, 1916, which shows the results accomplished during the period from July 1 to October 1, 1916. The work is in the charge of Dr. Alvin M. Struse, medical director for the Foundation, assisted by Dr. Ramon Tejida Aguirre.

Following a preliminary survey of health conditions in Guatemala in January, 1915, systematic work for the eradication of the hookworm and other parasitical diseases was begun in February, 1915. During the period from February 1, 1916, to October 1, 1916, they enrolled 62,251 persons. Of this number, 39,561 were found to be infected, and treatment was administered to 33,557 persons.

For the period from July 1 to October 1, 1916, a census survey showing 12,066 persons was taken. Of this number, 11,981 were examined microscopically and 8,190 were found to be positively infected with the hookworm disease—a percentage of 68.3 per cent. The number of persons cured was 5,511, a percentage of 67.2.

Work Systematized for Examination and Treatment.

The work of the director and his assistants has been localized as much as possible, and has been almost entirely limited to the "fincas," or the large plantations of the Republic. On a finca the medical assistants arrange for a concentration of individuals. The work is highly systematized both for examination and treatment, and the percentage of infection is usually heavy, especially in the lowlands of the Gulf and the Pacific coasts.

The vermifuge used in the treatment is oil of chenopodium and the purgative sodium sulphate. The oil of chenopodium is administered, according to age, in divided dosage, followed two hours after the last dose by sodium sulphate. The average number of treatments given is two, although the doctors try to administer three treatments and sometimes four. The medical staff speak very highly of oil of chenopodium, stating that by its use an average of 60 per cent of cures is effected. It is also apparently a specific for the ankylostoma and for the ascaris infestations, which are declared to be very prevalent in Guatemala.

Find Conditions Producing Soil Pollution.

The preliminary survey made by the medical staff showed that on a total of 50 fincas inspected only 85 toilets were found, and these were in very poor sanitary condition, leading inevitably to soil pollution and contributing to the dissemination not only of the hookworm and other parasites but to the spread of typhoid and dysentery. Efforts were made to improve conditions in this respect, and on the 50 fincas 454 sanitary toilets, or "excusados," have been constructed. The doctors, however, were not satisfied with their work in prophylaxis, and the matter was brought before the President of the Republic in a conference. He readily consented to make the establishment of the "excusados" obligatory and by so doing contributed a needed influence to the prophylactic feature of the work.

The commission in charge of the work reports that the President of Guatemala has exhibited keen interest in the work and is lending it potent cooperation. This is shown by the following privileges placed at the disposal of the commission:

Government Assistance in Carrying on Work.

1. The free use of the telegraph and the postal system.
2. Entrance of all drugs and scientific apparatus free of duty.
3. The obligatory construction of "excusados" when ordered by the commission.
4. Police and army protection to the work; orders to the alcaldes and jefes politicos to assist in any reasonable manner demanded.
5. Official order to examine the army, and the public-school children of Guatemala and to introduce the teaching of the elements of hygiene in the public schools.

The commission reports that its educational work is to a large extent retarded by the illiteracy of the Indians. They are reached, however, in many instances, by the exhibitions of pictures and stereopticon views. The commission also conducts public lectures on hygiene and methods of transmission of disease. Work along these lines for the period from July 1 to October 1, 1916, is summed up as follows: Public lectures, 126; estimated attendance, 6,999; house-to-house lectures, 1,519; estimated attendance, 7,281; pieces of literature distributed, 1,058.

TRADE BANK FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 30.]

Important recommendations for the furtherance of British trade and the financial assistance of British manufacturers have been made in a recent report to the British Board of Trade by the committee on financial facilities for trade. It is urged that a trade bank be established under royal charter to fill the gap between the home banks and the colonial and British foreign banks and to develop facilities not provided by the present banking system.

Important Features of Proposed Bank.

The report recommends that the main features of the trade bank should be as follows:

(1) It should have a capital of £10,000,000 (\$48,665,000 at the normal rate of exchange). The first issue should be £2,500,000 to £5,000,000 (\$9,028,200 to \$18,056,400), upon which in the first instance only a small amount should be paid up but which should all be called up within a reasonable time. A further issue should be made afterwards, if possible, at a premium.

(2) It should not accept deposits at call or short notice.

(3) It should open current accounts only for those who are proposing to make use of the over-seas facilities that it could afford.

(4) It should have a foreign-exchange department where special facilities might be afforded for dealing with bills in foreign currency.

(5) It should open a credit department for the issue of credit to persons at home and abroad.

(6) It should enter into banking-agency arrangements with existing colonial or British foreign banks, and where such arrangements were made it should undertake not to set up for a specified period its

own branches or agencies. It should have power to set up branches or agencies where no British foreign bank of importance exists.

(7) It should inaugurate an information bureau.

(8) It should endeavor not to interfere in any business for which existing banks now provide facilities, and it should try to promote working transactions on joint account with other banks, and should invite other banks to submit to it new transactions which, owing to length of time, magnitude, or other reasons, they are not prepared to undertake alone.

(9) Where desirable, it should cooperate with the merchant and manufacturer and possibly accept risks upon joint account.

(10) It should become a center for syndicate operations, availing itself of the special knowledge that it will possess through its information bureau.

(11) It should receive Government assistance.

Present Banking Facilities and Function of New Bank.

After expressing the view of the committee that there exists to a considerable extent at the present time in this country the machinery and facilities for the finance of home trade and large over-seas contracts, and for carrying through much of the business which has been done by foreign banks, the report states that present arrangements are faulty in not coordinating many of the facilities mentioned. It says:

We recognize also that the British manufacturer may be frequently in want of finance of a kind which a British joint-stock bank with liabilities could not prudently provide, whereas the German banks in particular seem to have been able to afford special assistance at the inception of undertakings of the most varied description, and to have laid themselves out for stimulating their promotion and for carrying them through to a successful completion. We conclude, therefore, that there is ample room for an institution which, while not interfering unduly with the ordinary business done by the British joint-stock banks, by colonial banks, and by British foreign banks and banking houses, would be able to assist British interests in a manner that is not possible under existing conditions.

Commercial-Information Bureau.

Such an institution could also take a leading part in the inception of transactions and assist in connection with the machinery of over-seas business.

The institution must be equipped with an up-to-date information department, and this will of necessity play a large part in its usefulness and financial success. This might properly be called a bureau d'études, independent of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, but in close touch therewith and under agreement entitled to all possible facilities. It would not necessarily deal only with schemes in which the institution proposed to take financial interests but might be made a center for investigation of projects on behalf of others, and a considerable revenue might be obtained thereby.

Training the Bank's Staff.

Nearly as important as the board would be the general staff. It is fair to assume that women will in the future take a considerable share in purely clerical work, and this fact will enable the institution to take fuller advantage of the qualifications of its male staff to push its affairs in every quarter of the globe. Youths should not be engaged without a language qualification, and after a few years' training they should be sent abroad. It could probably be arranged that associated banks abroad would agree to employ at each of their principal branches one of the institution's clerks, not necessarily to remain there for an indefinite period, but to get a knowledge of the trade and characteristics of the country. Such clerks might in many cases sever their connection with the banks to which they were appointed and start in business on their own account. They would, however, probably look upon the institution as their

"alma mater." Every endeavor should be made to promote esprit de corps, and where exceptional ability is developed it should be ungrudgingly rewarded. If industry is to be extended, it is essential that British products should be pushed, and manufacturers, merchants, and bankers must combine to push them. It is believed that this pushing could be assisted by the creation of a body of business young men in the way above described.

If financial assistance is given by the Government to undertakings in connection with what are known as "key" industries, the business should, if possible, be done through the medium of the institution.

In the financial operations of the institution the desirability of assisting British trade and of placing with British manufacturers orders in connection with new undertakings should always be borne in mind.

We are of opinion that there are strong reasons why the bank should be formed without delay, so that preliminaries may be completed before the war is over. We believe that a bank constituted upon the above basis, with efficient management, should not only be a great boon to British trade but should prove a commercial success.

COTTON CULTURE IN BAHIA.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct. 5.]

The Brazilian Serviço do Algodão (Cotton Service), which [as noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 7, 1913, and July 10, 1915] is at present under the direction of Mr. E. C. Green, an agricultural explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture, who has been "loaned" to the Brazilian Government, has been steadily occupied in increasing acreages, chiefly in the northern part of the country, and has enlisted the interest of the local (State) governments in many places in Brazil in its general purpose of spreading the culture of the cotton plant and obtaining the best types by selection.

By a decree dated August 5, 1916 (law No. 1161, State of Bahia), the local government of the State of Bahia offers the gratuitous use for the space of five years of certain State lands to individual cotton growers, either native or foreign, or to persons who, not being agriculturists themselves, are desirous of founding colonies of agriculturists who would raise cotton. At the end of this period the full title to the lands would revert to the individual planter in the first case, or, in the second case, to the person who had formed the colony. In the event, however, that the lands be not under proper culture at the end of the prescribed five years the lands would revert to the State of Bahia. The State government of Bahia also offers facilities in the way of distributing seeds, and promises to engage one or more specialists to instruct cotton growers as to planting methods and the quarantine of blights and other diseases.

Extent of Allotments—Prizes—Tax Exemptions.

The lands referred to will be allotted in grants not to exceed 10 to 50 hectares (approximately 25 to 125 acres) to each individual grower or 50 to 300 hectares (roughly, 125 to 750 acres) to each "colonial nucleus"; but persons who already have this amount under cultivation may apparently, under the law, apply within the prescribed five years for a further concession of the same amount of land.

Prizes aggregating \$25,000, United States currency, will be distributed to successful growers each year under the auspices of the Centro Industrial do Algodão.

Persons who take up land under this decree will be exempt from the payment of State taxes and imposts during the period of five years, excepting as regards the regular tax upon such cotton as they may choose to export. These same benefits will, however, extend to all those who are at present growing cotton within the State.

[A short additional report containing information of interest to the prospective emigrant to Brazil will be loaned by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, to those who refer to file No. 81607. For other articles on the Brazilian cotton situation, see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 6 and Nov. 1, 1915, and Jan. 18 and Aug. 4, 1916.]

COTTON SHIPMENTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending November 4, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	32,478	Philadelphia.....		San Francisco.....	6,409
Massachusetts.....	1,480	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	32,834
Maryland.....	5,657	Virginia.....		Total.....	209,009
New York.....	16,394	Galveston.....	67,949		
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	45,808		

The exports of 209,009 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 1,964,290 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 112,932 bales for the week and 1,366,130 bales in the cotton year.

BLUEBERRY-PIE STOCK FROM CANADA.

[Consul William A. Pierce, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Oct. 28.]

The shipment of blueberry-pie stock to American wholesale caterers is an entirely new feature of commerce in this Province. The volume of trade reached nearly \$4,000 this year. There is a possibility of increasing the amount each year, as the exports recorded were all from one firm.

Pie stock, or "pi-stok" as the catering trade calls it, is not to be confused with canned blueberry and other canned fruits. A considerable volume of canned berries and fruits has for many years been a part of Prince Edward Island's industry. The "pi-stok" is not canned but shipped in kegs. It is not to be eaten direct from the can, but it is a base or stock for sale to restaurants and hotels for pies and confections. A certain quantity of preservative is used but no coloring matter. It is partially sweetened.

The blueberry abounds in this Province. From the middle of July to mid-September the roadsides, abandoned farms, and railroad embankments offer inexhaustible supplies. Children and old people do much of the picking.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Boilers	22924.	Marble slabs	22920.
Boots and shoes and polish	22921.	Medicines	22921.
Chemical products	22917.	Needles	22922.
Cigars and cigarettes	22921.	Novelties	22921.
Clocks and watches	22921.	Paper	22922.
Confectionery	22921.	Photographic supplies	22915.-22922.
Cutlery	22921.	Provisions	22921.
Drugs	22917.	Rubber, for elastic, etc.	22922.
Electrical supplies	22922.	Sporting goods	22921.
Electro-plate ware	22913.	Stationery supplies	22916.
General merchandise	22919.	Store fixtures	22921.-22923.
Handkerchiefs	22918.	Stoves, oil	22921.
Hardware	22921.	Thread, gold and silver	22922.
Lanterns	22921.	Thread, rubber	22922.
Leather goods	22916.	Toys	22916.
Machinery, textile	22914.	Typewriter accessories	22916.

22913.*—A firm in Brazil desires catalogues and price lists of the best quality of electroplate ware, such as flower vases, service sets, toilet sets, ink-stands, etc.

22914.†—A manufacturers' agent in France desires to represent American manufacturers of textile machinery, such as machines for weaving, spinning, dyeing, finishing, knitting, and embroidery making.

22915.*—A firm in Central America is in the market for photographic materials and supplies, such as developing paper, dry plates, photo mounts, molding for frames, picture frames, photographic chemicals, etc. Correspondence in English.

22916.*—A merchant in Manchuria is in the market for stationery supplies of all kinds, including ribbons, carbon paper and typewriter accessories, toys, and leather goods. Correspondence in Russian or German.

22917.*—A wholesale import merchant in Spain desires to purchase drugs and chemical products for use in pharmacy and manufacture. Correspondence in English. References.

22918.‡—A firm in Greece wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of handkerchiefs. Reference.

22919.†—An established merchant in Europe who is now in the United States desires to secure agencies for general merchandise in European countries. Reference.

22920.*—A firm in New Zealand wishes to communicate with producers of marble slabs and finished products for table, commode, and sideboard tops.

22921.*—A wholesale firm in East Africa desires to receive catalogues with prices and discounts on the medium and cheaper grades of boots and shoes, boot polish, cutlery, cigars and cigarettes, confectionery, oil cook-stoves, lanterns, novelties, patent medicines, provisions, small hardware, store fixtures, sporting goods, and watches and clocks.

22922.†—A firm in Portugal whose representative is now in New York desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of electrical supplies, needles, gold and silver thread, shoes for women and children, photographic paper, colored and parchment paper, cardboard, rubber thread, and thin rubber used in the manufacture of suspenders and garters, etc. Correspondence in English. References.

22923.*—A firm in Canada desires to represent American manufacturers of glass display fixtures for shoe-store windows and any new novelties in store fixtures. References.

22924.*—A company in Venezuela is in the market for two 200-horsepower water-tube boilers with integral superheaters equipped with oil burners. Heavy fuel oil (asphalt base) is to be used. Order will be placed through commission house and cash paid in New York.

NOV 15 1916

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ADVANCE IN GREEK CURRANT MARKET.

[Cablegram from Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Nov. 4.]

The currant market has advanced an average of 33 per cent over the mid-September quotations. Merchants report 50,000 tons of fruit available, of which 40 per cent is inferior.

EXPORT CERTIFICATES FOR AUSTRALIA.

Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, has transmitted a copy of the following special form, which is now said to be required by the Australian customs authorities in the case of articles imported from the United States:

I, _____, of (address), declare—

(a) That I am the (position in company) of (name of company), the (manufacturer or supplier) of the undermentioned goods shipped on steamship _____, consigned to Sydney, viz: (State marks, numbers of cases, contents of cases, and value);

(b) That the said goods are bona fide the produce or manufacture of _____;

(c) That the said goods were manufactured by _____;

(d) That no person on the Statutory List is directly or indirectly connected with the transmission in such a way as to derive profit or advantage therefrom;

(e) That the said goods were not manufactured or produced or owned by or purchased from any person, firm, or company with whom trade is prohibited by any proclamation by the King of Great Britain or the Commonwealth of Australia relating to trading with the enemy.

This declaration should be made by the manager or other responsible officer of the company shipping the goods in accordance with the legal requirements as to attested documents prevailing in the place of origin. It is probable that certification by a notary would generally be regarded as sufficient.

The consul general also transmitted a form of guaranty which the importer must furnish to the customs officials where goods arrive without the required certificate. In such cases the consignee must bind himself to present within four months from the date of clearance a statutory declaration (as above indicated) from the manufacturer or supplier of the goods.

OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN PATENTED CATTLE FOOD.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct. 6.]

One of the interesting features in connection with the cattle exposition that is to be held in Rio de Janeiro on May 13, 1917, is the proposal of an enterprising American business man here who holds an agency for a patented American cattle food. He has suggested to the National Society of Agriculture that he be furnished with two or three calves, and that under the society's supervision these should be fed nothing but the American patented cattle food which he represents until the day of the exposition, when the judges may pass upon the condition of the young animals.

The proposal caused a little surprise at first in certain quarters, but has been taken up by the society. Thoughtful people realize that there is much that is interesting in experiments of this kind, the questions of pasture and of the artificial feeding of cattle being all-important in a country which builds such vast hopes upon the improvement of its cattle industry.

EXPORT OF HEMP THROUGH CHINESE PORT.

[Consul Willlys B. Peck, Tsingtau, Sept. 29.]

A report has been made by the Imperial Japanese Military Administration of Tsingtau regarding the fibrous plants of Shantung Province, China, and the export of hemp through Tsingtau.

The classification of fibrous plants grown in Shantung is given as follows: (1) *Cannabis sativa*, hemp. This plant sometimes attains a height of 10 to 20 feet. (2) *Linum usitatissimum*, flax. This is of several varieties, and the seeds of one sort yield linseed oil. (3) *Boehmeria nivea*, China grass. Resembles ramie. In warm places, after it has a three years' growth, this plant often gives 2 or 3 crops a year. (4) Ramie, a kind of China grass. (5) *Corchorus capsularis*, jute. (6) "Shang-ma," *Abutilon theophrasti*.

The first four kinds have fine fibers and are used largely for weaving cloth, while the last two are used principally for cordage. The kinds chiefly cultivated in Shantung are hemp and China grass.

Some Fibers Used in Making Cloth.

Hemp is cultivated throughout Shantung Province, but as a rule in small quantities. It is impossible to arrive at an accurate idea of the total amount of production, though various calculations give an estimate of about 2,000,000 pounds per annum. Some of these fibers are used in making cloth. The quantity used in making cordage is comparatively small, and this product is often imported from South China. The bark is removed from the stem by means of soaking in water. Dealers visit the country fairs to collect export cargo, and the briskest business is done between the middle of August and the end of October. Exports of this product through Tsingtau were: In 1912, 1,535,352 pounds; in 1913, 615,125 pounds; in 1914, 159,733 pounds (January-August); in 1915, 4,389 pounds (September-December).

Some Shantung hemp is exported through Tientsin, but the exports through Chefoo are negligible.

The approximate price of the best quality native hemp in Tsingtau is \$20 per picul (133½ pounds), and of ropes, thick, \$12.50 per picul; medium, \$15, and fine, \$20. The export duty is about 25 cents

American currency per picul. Wharfage charges are 2 cents per package of over 100 pounds and customs brokerage charges are \$1 for each consignment over \$500 in value. Exchange is reckoned at \$1 Mexican, equal to \$0.50 gold. The customs tael normally is equal to \$0.70.

A translation of the full report may be obtained from the American consul at Tsingtau, China.

IMPORT TRADE OF SOUTHERN WALES.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Oct. 12.]

During the eight months ended August 31, 1916, the wares imported by sea through the port of Swansea from foreign countries and coastwise amounted to 502,204 long tons, a decrease of 59,645 tons from the quantity imported during the first eight months of 1915, of 221,982 tons as compared with the like period of 1914, and of 194,805 tons when contrasted with the arrivals during January–August, 1913. For the single month of August, 1916, however, the decline was but 1,366 tons as compared with August, 1915. As furnished by the general manager of the Swansea Harbor Trust, the imports consisted of:

Articles.	Eight months ended August 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Tar and pitch.....	42,460	23,717	17,920
Gas coal.....	1,276	465	423
Copper, silver, lead, tin, with their ores and alloys.....	35,896	29,110	26,230
Zinc ore and alloys.....	63,474	42,017	41,924
Iron ore.....	56,701	67,535	45,468
Iron, steel, pig iron, and castings.....	85,352	63,489	25,380
Steel bars and billets.....	21,202	1,505	537
Deals, battens, and boards.....	35,108	16,950	9,850
Timber (sawn and hewn).....			
Pitwood.....	69,920	66,262	66,660
Bricks, slates, cement, etc.....	29,643	19,991	11,055
Sulphur ore, pyrites, salt, and chemicals.....	47,651	51,127	90,801
Flour, potatoes, etc.....	15,455	14,239	12,587
Grain.....	59,837	61,200	61,436
Sugar.....	9,867	1,200	1,200
Fish.....	6,344	3,719	3,222
General merchandise (average).....	144,000	99,323	
General merchandise (estimate for 1916).....			87,450
Total.....	724,186	561,849	502,204

According to the daily returns of the customhouse as published in the Cardiff and South Wales Journal of Commerce, 11,367 cubic tons of pit wood and pit props for use in the coal mines were imported into Swansea during August, 1916, of which quantity 7,586 cubic tons came from France, 3,624 tons from Canada and Newfoundland, and 157 tons from Sweden. Imports at Port Talbot amounted to 4,310 tons from France and 3,160 tons from Canada and Newfoundland.

In August, 1916, there were imported into Swansea from the United States 3,500 cubic tons of railway ties and 2,786 cubic tons of sawn Oregon redwood timber. The importation into this district of American timber is a new departure, the trade in which might be extended. Among other direct imports into Swansea from the United States in August were 65 long tons of tin plate, this transaction being worthy of note because the Swansea district is one of the largest producers of tin plate in the world.

CHINESE SALTPETER OFFERED FOR EXPORT.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Sept. 15.]

An American who has recently been employed with the engineering department of the Standard Oil Co. states that he is in touch with certain Chinese who have secured a monopoly for the collection of saltpeter in three provinces. Interest appears to have been originally aroused in the subject by rumors of the probability of a large Russian demand; but this does not seem to amount to anything at present, and the attention of the promoters has been turned to a possible American market.

The price originally quoted was \$33 Mexican per picul of 133½ pounds, and at the then rate of exchange the American representative calculated this meant the possibility of delivery f. o. b. treaty port (probably Tientsin) at a figure that would compete with the rate then ruling in New York. However, the gold value of silver has since appreciated somewhat—a factor which, of course, ordinarily militates against export trade—and further investigation would probably be necessary before such a price could be accepted.

The promoters claim to be able to deliver at three weeks' notice quantities of 400 to 500 tons. They have formed a company with a capital of \$525,000 to \$575,000 (gold) and say they are not looking for more, this being strictly a purchasing, not an investment, opportunity.

The foregoing information represents all that could be secured without considerable delay. If it should appear, however, that a demand exists in the United States for this product, it will be possible to obtain further specific data. It is suggested that for the present inquiries be directed to this office.

NEW CROP OF MADRAS INDIGO.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Sept. 22.]

The Government sowing report on the indigo crop of 1916-17 in the Madras Presidency, just issued, states that owing to the large profits made last year there has been an important increase in the area under indigo in the current year. Good seed has been generally available, although the prices have ruled very high. The total area now reported for the current year is 341,300 acres. The increase is especially noticeable in Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, and Kurnool, but occurs everywhere. The final forecast report on indigo in 1915-16 placed the area sown in that year in the Madras Presidency at 182,800 acres. Final figures for 1915-16 are not yet to hand for all districts, but it would appear that the area actually cultivated with indigo last year was about 202,000 acres. The season has been generally favorable to the crop so far. On an average of the five years ending 1914-15 the area under indigo in the Madras Presidency has represented 33.4 per cent of the total area under indigo in British India.

In Southern India the plant is grown either on light red soils in tracts which receive an ample rainfall or on somewhat richer soils which obtain water from wells. It is also found as a "catch" crop on rice lands after the rice harvest is over. The plant is tightly packed the day it is cut, in a large vat, into which water is run, and boards are then placed over the top and are kept in position by

heavy crossbeams. The plant is allowed to soak for 10 or 12 hours, during which time a heavy fermentation takes place. The liquid is then drained off into another vat, after which coolies beat and stir the soaked mass thoroughly with flails until the dye begins to emerge. The whole is then allowed to settle; the clear liquid is drained off, and the residue is boiled in copper vessels. It is then pressed into hard cakes ready for the market.

The best grade of local indigo is that known as fine Madras Kurpah, which brought as much as 12s. (\$2.92) a pound at the height of the season last year, though it is now being offered in London at 8s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. (\$2.07 to \$2.56). It sold at 2s. (\$0.48) before the war. A low-grade Madras dry leaf containing only a small percentage of color met with little inquiry. Besides its use as a blue dye, indigo is in demand in the preparation of khaki greens and blacks.

LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul, Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Oct. 17.]

Despite the fact that Guatemala imposes no unreasonable restrictions upon the operation of foreign life and fire insurance companies, there are only four of each class doing business in the Republic. The life insurance companies are the Sun, the Imperial, and the Confederation, of Canada, and the Pan American, of New Orleans. The total amount of life insurance written by these four companies in 1915 was approximately \$500,000 gold. Life insurance protection is fairly well accepted by the people, and the four companies had been steadily increasing their volume of business until the beginning of the war. With the exception that the premiums charged here are higher, relatively, than in the United States, the business is conducted on much the same general plan.

The fire insurance companies are the Alliance Assurance, Northern Assurance, and Commercial Union, of London, and the Fire Insurance, of Hamburg. The rates for fire insurance are one-half of 1 per cent a year for brick buildings with tile roofs, and 1½ per cent a year for brick buildings with iron roofs. Probably fire insurance will never prove profitable in Guatemala, for the reason that there are no frame buildings and no heating apparatus of any description used except in kitchens. Fires are very rare.

Permits and Taxes—Other Requirements.

Foreign insurance companies must obtain a permit from the Government, and are required to pay 1,000 pesos (\$25 U. S. gold) a year as taxes. There are no domestic insurance companies of any character in Guatemala.

The laws regulating life and fire insurance companies do not differ from those that govern other corporations. However, decree No. 630, approved January 28, 1903, provided that "Within five years from this date, foreign life and fire insurance companies will not be allowed to continue business in this Republic unless they invest in this country at least one-half of the premiums they receive from the insured parties." This decree has never been enforced, but just at the present time the newspapers are agitating the subject. The law requiring insurance companies to publish a yearly statement of their standing has likewise been ignored.

CROP PROSPECTS IN STATE OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

[Consul General, Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 27.]

The State of Rio de Janeiro is making strong efforts toward advancement in economic and agricultural conditions. This State is quite distinct from the city of Rio de Janeiro, for the capital city is within the Federal District, while the State of Rio de Janeiro lies across the bay and has its own capital, Niteroy, and its own separate State government. Its executive is Dr. Nilo Peçanha, a former president of the Brazilian Union. Through its Department of Agriculture, it is distributing seeds of nursery stock and encouraging the cultivation of the principal crops of the State—coffee, wheat, rice, fibers, manioc or cassava, fruits, beans, and other vegetables, etc. It aims to diversify the crops generally. It also encourages the introduction of stud animals for the betterment of live stock.

Increased Interest in Planting of Tobacco.

The State of Rio de Janeiro has shown increased interest in the planting of tobacco. One fazenda or farm recently spent 5 contos in tobacco cultivation, and the crop amounted to 8,500 kilos (18,739 pounds), which sold locally at 2 milreis (about 50 cents United States currency) per kilo, and yielded gross receipts of 17 contos (about \$4,250 United States currency). The profits amounted to 12 contos of reis, or \$3,000.

Among the planters some attention of a purely academic sort has been given to ascertaining whether the Turkish or Chinese tobacco would grow in Brazil. Both of these types are extensively used in the making of cigarettes of the so-called "Egyptian" type here; but the prevailing impression is that Brazil, like the United States, will always produce a dark, heavy, aromatic tobacco.

Interesting work is being done with breeding stations in the State of Rio de Janeiro, where the State Government is prepared this year to furnish sires for bovine, equine, suine, and caprine breeding, all of these being thoroughbreds. This work is carried on at the Federal Zootechnic post at Pinheiros or at the modern farm of Santa Monica, both in this State.

Abandoned for Century, Now Made Productive.

In a recent message of President Nilo, Pecanha, the executive points to the fact that the efforts made have been most encouraging and that many fazendas, which have been abandoned for nearly a century, are now being worked and made productive. That of the Carmelite monks, where there is now settled a colony of foreign agriculturists, and that of the Benedictine monks, worked by the monks themselves, are among these. The ancient industry of sugar planting has been revived to an extent never before known in the State, with a most flourishing center in the municipality of Campos. Most encouraging reports have been received of the determined efforts that are being made with cotton, textile fibers, tobacco, and wheat. Many of the municipalities have revived and again placed under cultivation old and abandoned coffee fazendas. Particularly important is the interest that is being taken in the governmental effort to improve live stock.

ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT IN RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Oct. 30.]

A tender for grain elevator equipment was recently closed in Petrograd which should be of interest to Canadian designers and contractors of grain elevators. Although the time limit was too short for Canadians to tender in this instance, the specifications show some of the Russian requirements in connection with the building up of their country elevator system which the zemstovs and municipalities, the credit associations, and other responsible local bodies are being encouraged by the State to provide. As time extension, whereby firms outside of Russia might be able to place tenders, is not granted, it would seem advantageous, writes Mr. C. F. Just, Canadian trade commissioner in Petrograd, to have a properly authorized representative in Petrograd for dealing promptly and directly with such contracts.

The following was the equipment required for the elevator under construction at the Balakhov wharf on the Volga: Eight dressing machines (separators) for cleaning rye, capacity 2,000 poods (over 36 short tons) per hour; 13 hydraulic hose filters, with a filtering surface measuring 180 square meters (1,938 square feet) each; 16 cylinders for extracting cockle, diameter 600 millimeters (23.6 inches), length, 2,500 millimeters (98.4 inches) each; 16 cylinders for oats, diameter 800 millimeters (31.5 inches), length 3,000 millimeters (118.1 inches) each.

Specifications for Separators.

Separators of wood to be steady and well balanced, so that when in operation no considerable vibration or jolting be produced. All parts to be made of good material suitable for its special purpose; the castings, tooling, and fitting together of the parts to be faultless. All rotating parts to be strictly balanced and the respective bearings to have easily changeable bushings; the bearings of the main and ventilator shafts to have a ring lubricator and to work without getting hot. All pulleys to have oval rims. The eccentricity of the eccentrics to be not less than 5 millimeters in diameter, and the rotating capacity of the main shaft not less than 450 revolutions per minute.

Requirements for Screens in Separators.

The separators to have two oscillating screen beds, each containing three rows of easily removable screens (the receiving, the grading, and the riddling screens); the beds must be so constructed that the angle of inclination of the screens could be changed upward from 15 degrees to 5 degrees. The total surface efficiency of the receiving (first) screens of each separator to be not less than 0.80 square meters (8.6 square feet); the total surface efficiencies both of the grading (second) screens and of the riddling (third) screens to be not less than 3.40 square meters (36.6 square feet). When determining the surface efficiency of the screens, the edges resting on the frames shall not be taken into account. Each grading and riddling screen to consist of three easily removable frames. All the frames of the second and third screens to be of the same shape and dimensions, so

that the frames could be fixed at any spot of the screen bed. The receiving screens of each separator to be made of iron 1.5 millimeters (0.059 inch) thick and to have oval meshes 55 by 30 millimeters (2.17 by 1.18 inches).

Screen Frames, Automatic Cleansers, etc.

For assembling the second and third screens each separator to be supplied with the following set of screen frames with screens of iron 1 millimeter (0.039 inch) thick, as follows:

(a) Two frames with round meshes, diameter 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6½, 6, 5½, 5, and 4 millimeters; six frames with round meshes, diameter 3½, 3, 2½, 2, and 1½ millimeters, i. e., 52 frames in all for each separator.

(b) Six frames with oval meshes; dimensions 20 by 2, 20 by 1½, and 20 by 1¼ millimeters; in all, 18 frames for each separator.

The riddling (third) screens to be fitted with automatic cleaners consisting of steel brushes or rubber balls; if brushes are used, the separators must be supplied with an arrangement for raising and lowering the brushes.

The receiving device of the separator to be so arranged as to secure the uniform equal feeding of the grain to the receiving (first) screens. It is desirable that conveyor worms (distributing screws) be adapted for this purpose. The air chambers of the separators to be of glued veneer in order to prevent the possibility of air entering them.

Ventilators—Causes for Rejection of Separators.

Each separator to have two ventilators for double aspiration; first before the grain enters the separator and again as it leaves it. The capacity of the ventilators to be not less than 150 cubic meters (5,297 cubic feet) per minute each. The means of determining the efficiency of the ventilators (when the regulating ventilator valves or slides are wide open and when the separator is in operation without grain) shall be worked out by the Granaries' Section, together with the representative of the supplier, at the time the order is given. For regulating the aspiration in the channels that carry air to the ventilator there must be valves or slides, with control levers outside and pointers that move along a fixed scale marked to show complete opening and closing of the valve or slide. The scale to have intermediate gradations between the said marks. Each separator "trunk" (ventilation chamber) to have two valves (an inside and an outside one) for the purpose of automatically letting out the dust.

The weight of the machine and the consumption of power for starting each separator with no load work must be indicated in the tender.

If when accepting delivery of the machines it appears that the surface efficiency of the screens is less than required or that the amount of air from the ventilators is less than 150 cubic meters per minute or that the consumption of power while the machine is in operation with no load work is greater than stipulated by the order, such circumstances may be the cause of the separators being rejected or their value diminished.

Hose Filters.

The hose filters for compressed air to be supplied with strong iron dust-collecting screws and an arrangement for the automatic cleansing of the filters. The wooden chambers of the filters to be of good dry material with no blemishes; the upper chamber to be supported by wooden supports; the tissue of the hose to be dense enough not to let dust through. The lids of the lower chambers to be held by thumbscrews so as to make the dust-collecting arrangement accessible for inspection. Each filter to have a driving belt pulley with an oval rim. The full height of each filter to be not less than 3 meters (9.8 feet) and each dimension of filter on the plan to be not more than two-fifths of a meter (1.3 feet).

Cylinders for Separating Cockle and for Oats.

The cylinders for separating cockle to be of zinc sheets with milled cells, measuring 5 millimeters (0.197 inch) in diameter and 3 millimeters (0.118 inch) in depth; to be adapted for cleaning wheat from cockle, peas, half corns, and sundry fine admixtures; to have a shaft and bearings, bevel-gear system, a groove or slot, that could easily be turned, supplied with scrapers of vulcanized fiber. Each cylinder to measure 600 millimeters (23.6 inches) in diameter and 2,500 millimeters (98.4 inches) in length.

The cylinders for oats to be of zinc sheets with milled cells, measuring 9 millimeters (0.354 inch) in diameter and 5 millimeters (0.197 inch) in depth; to serve for separating oats and barley free from the wheat, to be equipped with the same parts as the cylinders for separating cockle. Each cylinder to measure 800 millimeters (31.5 inches) in diameter and 3,000 millimeters (118.1 inches) in length.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon ..	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	....do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Waddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 39	Do.

MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 12 leading eastern railroads during August and eight months ending August, 1915 and 1916, follows:

AUGUST.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			114,456	81,436	114,456	81,436
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			5,635	7,507	5,635	7,507
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			379	277	379	277
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	138	191	1,669	1,550	1,807	1,741
Erie.....	687,562	671,001	114,497	101,458	802,059	773,059
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....				35		35
Pennsylvania.....	396,361	444,574	346,890	556,624	743,257	1,001,198
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....			221	1,165	221	1,165
Virginian.....		42	84	301	84	343
Western Maryland.....			26,471	28,702	26,471	28,702
Total.....	1,084,061	1,116,408	610,308	779,055	1,694,369	1,895,463
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	3,633,747	2,635,199	519,309	546,208	3,153,116	3,181,407
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	640,587	865,084	7,500	1,943	648,087	867,027
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	93,784	140,483	29		93,813	140,483
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	2,080,606	2,103,279	156,019	223,069	2,236,525	2,326,348
Erie.....	18,340	16,686	527,628	707,230	645,968	723,916
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	58,106	50,104	24,248	30,387	82,353	120,491
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	529,251	628,167			529,251	628,167
Norfolk & Western.....	2,315,670	2,261,084	446,348	519,917	2,762,018	2,781,001
Pennsylvania.....	3,490,897	3,812,502	350,678	480,125	3,847,575	4,292,627
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	182,728	209,806	700	576	183,428	270,382
Virginian.....	347,367	400,572	45,327	61,767	392,694	462,339
Western Maryland.....	292,113	333,913	528,002	530,725	820,115	864,638
Total.....	12,689,195	13,556,879	2,605,748	3,101,947	15,294,943	16,658,826
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
Erie.....	10,397	18,860	51		10,448	18,910
Pennsylvania.....	9,760	8,898	11,743	11,657	21,503	20,455
Total.....	20,157	27,758	11,794	11,657	31,951	39,315
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	458,256	401,227	17,541	4,053	475,797	405,280
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	45,695	57,711			45,695	57,711
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	5,737	9,114			5,737	9,114
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	157,096	168,381			157,096	168,381
Erie.....	155,980	115,432	156,000	163,952	311,980	279,384
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	2,115	2,438			2,115	2,438
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	250,701	206,514			250,701	206,514
Norfolk & Western.....	206,995	222,593	36,095	45,346	243,090	267,939
Pennsylvania.....	765,228	597,631	13	12	765,241	597,643
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	6,300	10,041			6,300	10,041
Virginian.....	19,018	29,000	150	246	19,168	29,246
Western Maryland.....	45,840	49,807	1,712	278	47,552	50,085
Total.....	2,119,867	1,869,899	212,021	213,887	2,331,888	2,083,776
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	289,279	134,094	65,584	115,397	354,863	249,491
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	36,931	20,414	7,110	14,689	44,041	44,103

AUGUST—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL—continued.						
	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	49,693	38,729	.....	.....	49,693	38,729
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	13,081	24,705	11,929	8,909	25,010	43,614
Erie.....	.....	.....	127,817	121,819	127,817	121,819
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	9,129	8,921	63	102	9,192	9,023
Norfolk & Western.....	73,206	162,770	410	7,330	73,615	160,100
Pennsylvania.....	854,098	924,126	281,476	249,758	1,135,645	1,173,884
Western Maryland.....	4,839	6,543	26,781	6,639	31,620	13,182
Total.....	1,330,255	1,429,309	521,241	524,553	1,851,496	1,953,855

EIGHT MONTHS ENDING AUGUST.

FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	.....	.....	791,298	940,220	791,298	940,220
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	.....	.....	1 2,965	109,312	102,965	109,312
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	.....	.....	3,974	4,282	3,974	4,282
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,083	748	8,461	8,985	9,544	9,733
Erie.....	4,906,049	5,323,026	1,008,396	965,148	5,914,445	6,318,174
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	.....	.....	249	465	249	465
Pennsylvania.....	3,663,792	3,866,474	3,147,501	3,901,274	6,811,293	7,767,748
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	.....	.....	7,277	8,484	7,277	8,484
Virginian.....	368	186	720	2,403	1,088	2,589
Western Maryland.....	.....	.....	215,116	225,301	215,116	225,301
Total.....	8,571,292	9,190,434	5,285,957	6,195,874	13,857,249	15,386,303
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	16,840,010	19,259,080	4,137,120	4,530,898	20,977,130	23,789,978
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	4,661,718	6,170,071	38,449	25,425	4,700,167	6,195,496
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	633,221	1,002,143	240	128	633,461	1,002,274
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	13,412,699	16,584,695	996,638	1,649,337	14,409,337	18,234,032
Erie.....	130,969	141,877	3,936,997	5,567,335	4,067,996	5,709,212
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	439,343	519,153	177,813	238,827	617,156	757,980
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	3,923,294	5,185,046	.....	.....	3,923,294	5,185,046
Norfolk & Western.....	14,571,987	16,977,825	2,071,561	3,690,960	16,643,548	20,677,785
Pennsylvania.....	25,155,020	28,510,406	2,648,055	4,066,070	27,703,075	32,576,476
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	1,435,152	2,013,156	4,687	5,286	1,439,839	2,018,442
Virginian.....	2,240,467	3,034,696	300,897	477,000	2,541,364	3,511,696
Western Maryland.....	2,181,489	2,441,603	3,360,008	3,114,138	5,542,097	5,555,741
Total.....	85,625,369	101,839,746	17,573,065	23,374,402	103,198,434	126,214,148
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	.....	.....	142	36	142	36
Erie.....	176,958	128,582	754	145	177,712	128,727
Pennsylvania.....	96,527	89,448	126,360	122,373	212,887	211,821
Total.....	263,485	218,030	127,256	122,554	390,741	340,584
Bituminous.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,788,243	3,780,193	73,992	102,655	2,862,235	3,882,848
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	354,893	479,459	.....	.....	354,893	479,459
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	60,524	72,389	.....	.....	60,524	72,389
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,308,353	1,423,481	.....	.....	1,308,353	1,423,481
Erie.....	1,115,825	925,875	1,149,838	1,317,312	2,265,661	2,243,187
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	19,671	22,152	.....	.....	19,671	22,152
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	1,778,589	1,652,333	.....	.....	1,778,589	1,652,333
Norfolk & Western.....	1,594,174	1,785,618	176,181	344,204	1,770,355	2,129,822
Pennsylvania.....	4,846,267	5,288,904	178	711	4,846,445	5,289,615

EIGHT MONTHS ENDING AUGUST—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
FOR COMPANY FUEL—CON.						
Bituminous—Continued.	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	55,976	91,396	.....	.....	55,976	91,396
Virginian.....	156,151	176,161	319	27,621	156,470	203,782
Western Maryland.....	360,612	382,225	2,947	36,421	363,559	418,646
Total.....	14,439,278	16,080,186	1,403,453	1,828,924	15,842,731	17,909,110
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	1,705,178	2,268,484	644,069	671,549	2,349,237	2,940,033
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	273,220	265,274	75,971	108,075	349,191	373,349
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	392,353	308,817	.....	.....	392,353	308,817
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	73,937	285,812	8,077	69,520	157,014	355,332
Erie.....	.....	.....	715,287	781,086	715,287	781,086
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	42,782	53,027	633	4,207	43,415	57,234
Norfolk and Western.....	584,767	1,217,307	7,128	63,923	591,895	1,281,230
Pennsylvania.....	5,356,886	7,533,172	1,866,964	2,149,064	7,223,840	9,682,236
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	.....	.....	.....	70	.....	70
Virginian.....	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	30
Western Maryland.....	34,667	60,841	153,512	94,289	188,179	155,130
Total.....	8,463,790	12,092,734	3,546,621	3,941,813	12,010,411	16,034,547

NOTE.—Totals do not include amounts of coal received by the New York Central Railroad from connections. The Southern Railway transported from the Tennessee and Alabama districts 207,767 short tons of bituminous coal in July, 1916, and 266,000 short tons in July, 1915.

AUSTRIAN MATCH TAX.

[Vice Consul Robert S. Townsend, Carlsbad, Bohemia, Sept. 26.]

On September 19 there went into effect in Austria a tax of 2 hellers (0.406 cent) on each box of matches sold within the Empire. Upon payment of this tax a stamp will be placed on the box by the proper officials.

Since September 10 Austrian factories have been allowed to make only matches having a registered trade-mark. It is now incumbent upon dealers to see that the proper trade-mark appears on all the Austrian matches they handle and that the prescribed tax stamp is affixed to all their foreign matches. If these stamps or trade-marks be absent the purchaser must report this fact within 24 hours to the financial authorities in order to save himself a fine.

The maximum wholesale and retail prices for matches are to be regulated by the Ministry of Finance in agreement with the Ministry of Commerce.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

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 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
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 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

USE OF BOX SHOOKS FOR CHINESE PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Aug. 31.]

The Shanghai market is supplied largely with shooks of local manufacture, but Japanese goods offer increasingly active competition in both quality and price. The principal users of shooks are the manufacturers of candles, soaps, and cigarettes. On account of the high price of zinc sheets, match manufacturers are now substituting wooden boxes, but inasmuch as one of these boxes costs about three times more than the far superior zinc case did before the war, it is not expected that the present substitution of shooks will be permanent.

Probably the largest user of box shooks in China is the Standard Oil Co. of New York (Shanghai agency). The company has been using about 200,000 sets of shooks a year in connection with its candle factory at Tientsin, but within a very short time a new candle factory will be opened at Hankow, where an additional 200,000 will be required. All box shooks are now being supplied by the local office of a foreign lumber concern, which has so far underbid all Chinese and Japanese competitors.

Japanese Active in Seeking Trade.

American box shooks frequently have been offered in this market, but only at prices double those asked by local manufacturers or Japanese importers. I am informed, furthermore, that the Japanese manufacturers are making a persistent effort to secure the business, and it is anticipated that the time is not far distant when, despite the import duty, they will offer goods of a suitable quality at competing prices. It is believed, however, that American shooks would, even at a slightly higher price than that asked for Japanese shooks, find a ready sale on account of the superiority of the American lumber, which is kiln dried, and free from the tendency of the Japanese pine to swell and shrink with variations in the weather.

The requirements of the office of the Standard Oil Co. at Shanghai are:

Dimensions of boxes: The candles are made in three sizes—9-ounce, 12-ounce and 15-ounce packages of 6 each, with 25 packages to the case. The inside dimensions of the cases are:

Packages.	Length.	Width.	Height.
	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
9-ounce	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
12-ounce	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
15-ounce	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$

There are two important reasons for the greater popularity at this port of shooks of local manufacture. The demand is uncertain, and the consumer is unwilling to contract for shooks beyond his orders, and heavy stocking by the shook importer, entirely at his own risk, is necessary in order to meet sudden demands. The local manufacturer can produce on short order shooks of any description. In the second place, the foreign manufacturer is obliged to add to his prices the import duty of 5 per cent ad valorem, which the local manufacturer escapes, as well as a surtax amounting to 5 per cent (conservancy 3 per cent, and wharfage dues 2 per cent) of the customs duty on goods entering Shanghai. In addition, the producers here state that shooks can be made more cheaply by hand in Shanghai than by machinery here or elsewhere.

Increased Tonnage May Change Conditions.

Foreign consumers do not always set considerations of price above those of quality, and the superiority of the American shook, coupled with more favorable prices than those hitherto quoted, may make it possible for American manufacturers to compete successfully against Japanese imports at least, and even against the local product. With the advent of additional tonnage in the trans-Pacific trade a steady decline in freight rates is almost assured, and for this reason alone new lines of American goods are expected to make their appearance on the market. Lower freights will do much to equalize the chances of both American and Japanese manufacturers in competing in this market, while in quality the advantage has always been with the American article.

The only complaint against American shooks that has come to my attention is that Oregon-pine shooks have a tendency to crack when pierced with nails. The Japanese soft pine, however, is far inferior to the American spruce or poplar shook, and especially so when not kiln-dried.

Specifications for lumber: The shooks must be one-half inch thick for the ends, and three-eighths inch thick for the sides, tops, and bottoms. All ends and sides must be in one piece, but tops and bottoms may be in two pieces. All parts must be planed smooth enough on one side to permit of clear printing. The ends and sides must be packed separately and in assorted sizes.

Requirements: With the two factories in operation, one in Tientsin and the other in Hankow, as many as 200,000 cases or sets of shooks will be needed at each place, and it is estimated that of the total output of candles about 80 per cent will be in the 12-ounce package size. While quotations c. i. f. Shanghai are also wanted, quotations c. i. f. Tientsin and Hankow are much to be preferred.

American Shooks Favored if Prices are Satisfactory.

All correspondence in this connection should be addressed to the lubricating-oil department of the Standard Oil Co. of New York, Shanghai, China. The company appears anxious to buy American shooks, provided suitable prices can be agreed upon.

Among the other users of shooks in this port it is estimated that local soap factories use from 150,000 to 250,000 cases a year, and that the demand for egg cases averages more than 100,000 per season, extending from October to April. There is a fair demand for packing cases for cigarettes, as Shanghai has a number of cigarette manufacturers, one firm using approximately 3,000 cases a month.

Other Manufacturers at Shanghai.

Among the candle and soap manufacturers of Shanghai are the Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Ltd.), and Price's Patent Candle Co. (Ltd.), the latter being a branch of the London factory of the same name. As these two concerns are British and, I am told, prefer to buy British goods if possible, it is not thought that they will be in the market for American shooks, unless special inducements are offered. The few native candle and soap factories are conducted on a very small scale, and business with them can be conducted only through the medium of commission agents.

Among the manufacturers and distributors of cigarettes in Shanghai, the largest is the British-American Tobacco Co., which has a

large organization operating in China, with traveling men who penetrate the interior, and branch offices in the treaty and trade ports. It is in the cigarette trade more than in any other that the demand for shooks is so uncertain, but advance orders for certain conservative quantities are usually given.

[A comprehensive discussion of Chinese markets for American forest products is given in Special Agents Series No. 104 of the publications of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, "China and Indo-China Markets for American Lumber," which may be obtained at 5 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau. A list of commission merchants and users of shooks in Shanghai may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80868.]

AMERICAN PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

Among the questions which are frequently asked of the Rio de Janeiro consulate general is one concerning the requirements for the practice of medicine in Brazil. There are only two American physicians or surgeons in this country; both of them, born of American parents residing in Brazil, were brought up here from childhood and then went to the United States to study. It may be well for American physicians or surgeons, who think of settling in Brazil, to know that in order to pass the required examination here they must be prepared on the usual medical-university subjects and must pass an examination in the Portuguese language without an interpreter to assist them.

Similar letters are often received here from dentists, to which a formal reply is usually made to about the following effect:

In order to pass an examination here the foreign dentist must be prepared on the usual dental-course requirements, and must stand an examination in Portuguese without the help of an interpreter, nor could he build up a practice without speaking Portuguese.

Success of American Dentists.

With dentists, however, the case is very much different from what it is with the physician, and many American dentists have settled and prospered in this country. There are some 20 of them in this city and vicinity [their addresses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 81605] and they are certain to receive anywhere from 30 to 50 milreis (\$7.50 to \$12.50 U. S.) per hour for their work, which is a considerable advance upon the usual earnings of men of their profession in the United States. Most of the American dentists who have practiced in Brazil have come here as assistants to some local practitioner under a 2-year contract, and at its expiration have then either entered into partnership with their former employer or branched out for themselves with a knowledge of the language and some patronage which their work has won for them among the people here.

In order to avoid misconceptions and possible bitterness it has been the practice of this office, when addressed on this subject, always to state clearly to the professional man who is coming here under contract that the cost of living in Brazil may safely be reckoned at one-half more—some people say it is twice as much—than the cost of living in cities of similar size in the United States.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Biscuits.....	22936	Machine tools.....	22928
Buckles.....	22938	Machinery.....	22932
Cacao.....	22927	Motors.....	22934
Cereals.....	22927	Musical instruments.....	22930
Cocoanut butter.....	22927	Needles, knitting.....	22935
Cornmeal and flour.....	22927	Paper.....	22932, 22936
Cream and milk.....	22936	Pumps.....	22925, 22934
Crucibles.....	22926	Stationery.....	22936
Extracts.....	22927	Tweed piece goods.....	22929
Hooks and eyes.....	22936	Wire, telegraph.....	22931
Lumber.....	22933	Water supply systems.....	22934

22925.*—A public service company in Venezuela is in the market for a motor-driven centrifugal pump, capable of pumping 750 gallons of water per minute, against a discharge head of 125 feet. Correspondence in English.

22926.†—A man in Russia is interested in crucibles for melting iron. He desires to place a trial order immediately for three or four barrels, containing 10 to 15 each, and costing from approximately \$14 to \$30 each.

22927.*—An import firm in Spain desires to purchase and secure exclusive agencies for extracts of all kinds of fruits and flowers, vanilla extract, cereals, flour, corn meal, cacao and cocoanut butter. Correspondence in English. References.

22928.†—A firm in Australia wishes to get in touch with American manufacturers of wood mortise chains, guide bars, and sprockets. Reference. A catalogue describing these tools may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 1941).

22929.*—A manufacturers' agent in Canada desires to secure the agency for tweed piece goods for the manufacture of women's coats and suits. References.

22930.*—An American consul in Brazil reports that inquiries are received at his office for musical instruments, especially band instruments. Catalogues and other descriptive literature from interested firms are desired.

22931.*—The head of the supply department of a railway company in China desires to communicate with manufacturers of galvanized telegraph wire, of which the company needs 7,000 poods (about 126 tons; 1 pood = 36.1128 pounds). Correspondence in Russian or English.

22932.†—A firm in northern Africa desires quotations on paper, a sample of which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 163). References.

22933.*—A business man in Cuba desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of machinery and lumber. Reference.

22934.†—A man in France desires to make connections with American firms in a position to supply pumps, reservoirs, motors, etc., used for water-supply systems for hotels, hospitals, colleges, etc. The aid of American capital is also desired in the organization of a company to handle installations of this character.

22935.†—A knitting company in the United States, using foreign-made machinery and needles, desires to communicate with American manufacturers in a position to supply needles for these machines.

22936.*—A firm in the Far East is in the market for sterilized and condensed milk; sterilized cream; biscuits; hooks and eyes; buckles, and printing papers and stationery.

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BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITION ON CHESTNUT EXTRACT.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 27.]

Army council orders that no person shall buy, sell, deal in, or make delivery of chestnut extract imported from any country other than an allied country or dependencies thereof after August 1, 1916, except under permission of Director of Army Contracts.

[The importation of chestnut extract was prohibited by a proclamation dated Aug. 18, 1916 (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 23, 1916).]

JAPANESE LABOR FOR BRAZIL.

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Japan, Oct. 12.]

It is reported that Mr. Tadao Kamiya, of the Oriental Emigration Co., who went to Brazil representing his own company as well as the South American Emigration Co. and the Morioka Emigration Co. to negotiate with the Brazilian Government for the transport of Japanese laborers to Brazil, has successfully concluded arrangements to send 20,000 Japanese to Brazil within two years. A group of 5,000 men will be sent twice a year, in the spring and autumn, and the Brazilian Government will contribute £8 (\$39) toward the transportation expenses of each emigrant.

SPAIN'S IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND CORN DURING AUGUST.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 9.]

According to statistics published by the Spanish Director General of Customs, 20,862 metric tons of wheat were entered at Spanish custom-houses during August, 1916. In marked contrast to previous months only 5,407 tons were of American origin, most of the remainder having come from Buenos Aires. Nearly 9,000 tons of all the wheat imported were discharged at the port of Barcelona. There were 9,023 tons of corn, chiefly from Argentina, received at different Spanish ports during the same month.

PROSPECTIVE NICARAGUAN COFFEE CROP.

[Consul John A. Gamon, Corinto, Oct. 22.]

A survey of the coming coffee crop, made in September by the Corinto consulate with the aid of numerous coffee growers and buyers, indicates a probable production of export coffee for Nicaragua of 20,938,000 pounds, or about 6 per cent less than last year. The following table gives the expected production by districts, together with the estimated exports during 1915-16:

District.	1915-16	1916-17	Increase (+) or decrease (-).
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Matagalpa.....	2,000,000	2,500,000	+ 25
Las Sierritas.....	7,332,000	7,022,000	- 4
Los Pueblos.....	12,924,000	11,416,000	- 12
Total.....	22,256,000	20,938,000	- 6

The actual production will be very difficult to determine until the end of the rainy season. Late rains extending through November would cut down the production considerably. Labor seems to be plentiful and normal in price.

Freight rates to Europe for the coming season's coffee shipments have been published by the leading shipping company's agent as follows: Cleaned coffee—150s. (\$36.50) per ton, with 5 per cent reduction by lines in the conference and a surcharge of 90s. (\$21.90) per ton; shell coffee—180s. (\$43.80) per ton, with 5 per cent reduction by lines in the conference, and a surcharge of 120s. (\$29.20) per ton. Freight rates to the United States for the coming season are not announced, but slight, if any, increase is expected.

[Nicaragua's coffee trade for the first half of the current year was reviewed in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 23, 1916.]

MOTION-PICTURE THEATERS IN DENMARK.

[Vice Consul Axel Permin, Copenhagen, Oct. 11.]

There are some 200 film theaters in the Kingdom of Denmark, with an average seating capacity of 150 each. Admission fees range from 25 to 60 øre (\$0.067 to \$0.161); the performance lasts about an hour. Dramas and comedies usually make up the programs, very few scenic reels being shown. Heretofore Danish films have been most favored, but of late the American film is forging ahead. All well-known American brands are shown here.

There are only four concerns buying films in Denmark and these have their headquarters in Copenhagen. [Their addresses may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices; refer to file No. 81501.] The motion-picture theaters rent the films they use from these four firms, but the rental charged is not stated. The price usually paid for films by importers averages about 90 øre per meter, or \$0.073 per foot.

The duty on new and used films imported into Denmark is 70 øre per kilo, or \$8.51 per 100 pounds.

GUAYAQUIL MARKET REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Oct. 11.]

During September there was a decline of a sucre in the local price paid for cacao, as this did not correspond with the European and United States market prices. Arriba superior therefore brought only \$12.29 per 100 pounds. Receipts continue to be large, but practically all of them go to the Association, as the exporters are still keeping out of the market. The receipts up to October 1, 1916, are 175,771 quintals in excess of those for 1915. The shipments, in pounds, for the month were: To Denmark, 349,214; France, 659,943; Italy, 35,239; Norway, 279,010; Spain, 442,278; United Kingdom, 18,000; United States, 3,506,338; a total of 5,290,022 pounds.

The coffee market was firm at the same prices that prevailed during August, which were \$7.63 for first grade and \$7.20 for second grade. The coffee exported during September amounted to 705,770 pounds, shipped to the following countries: To Chile, 176,718; France, 104,821; Italy, 61,683; Panama, 68,822; Peru, 6,160, and Spain, 287,566 pounds.

In rubber the market was quiet, the quotations of \$23.30 for maromas and \$19.07 for hojas being the same as for August. Shipments amounted to 15,077 pounds—all going to the United States.

Hide prices remained stationary during the month, serranos being quoted at \$17.80, criollos at \$16.95, and picados at \$8.48. The shipments, which amounted to 114,702 pounds, all went to the United States.

The tagua market has been very quiet, quotations for unshelled nuts being \$0.85. There was no tagua exported during the month.

Ecuador's imports during September amounted to 71,599 packages, weighing 4,925 tons. They were from the following countries: From Chile, 1,624; Cuba, 1; France, 923; Holland, 215; Italy, 18; Panama, 6; Peru, 173; Salvador, 1,000; Spain, 2,789; Sweden, 1,392; United Kingdom, 10,907; United States, 52,539; and Uruguay, 12. The rate of exchange on the United States was 236.

BUILDING OPERATIONS IN STUTTGART.

[Consul George Nicolas Ifft, Stuttgart, Germany, Oct. 13.]

Stuttgart is building a new central station which, when completed, will cost \$12,000,000. This was commenced before the outbreak of the war, but several handsome bank buildings and business blocks have been commenced and completed since.

The statistics of the Municipal Building Department for the first six months of 1916 show the issuance of 600 building permits, calling for construction work that will cost \$1,775,000. During 1915, 1,000 permits were issued for buildings aggregating in cost \$2,330,000.

The 600 building permits issued during the first half of the current year provide for apartment houses to cost \$1,140,000 and which will add 310 new dwellings to the city; for industrial buildings to cost \$300,000; extensions and additions, \$115,000; other buildings, \$220,000. In 1915 new apartment houses containing 514 dwellings were erected, and 1916 promises to exceed the record of the previous year in this respect.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Oct. 24.]

The people of Guatemala are very fond of music. Their most popular programs are those in which classical selections predominate. Band, orchestral, and marimba music constitute an indispensable feature of all public festivals and entertainments.

The most highly prized music in Guatemala is that of the marimba, a sweet-toned musical instrument said to have been invented by the "Tecomate," a tribe of Indians of the State of Chiapas, Mexico. The original form of the instrument, crude in structure, was brought to Guatemala, where it has been greatly improved. It resembles the xylophone in structure and manner of playing. The keys, strips of wood graduated in length to the musical scale, are made of two kinds of wood called "hormigo," not unlike cedar, and "aguacate." The keys are held together by means of a cord drawn through them. There are 45 tones and 30 half tones. The bass tones are given by the long, thick slats, the high tones by the short, thin slats. The keys are struck with two small rubber hammers called "baquetas."

The marimba is about 8 feet long, and varies from 1 to 2 feet in width. The sounding board beneath the keys is constructed of two kinds of wood, "taxiscob" and "guachipilin," and the keys are made of mahogany. The cost of a marimba is from \$60 to \$125 gold.

Marimbas Shipped to the United States.

The finest marimbas are manufactured in Quezaltenango, and the most skilled operators also come from that city, which is the second city in size in the Republic. Eight operators are required to play a marimba, and the addition of a bass viol, a recent innovation, gives strength and volume to the music.

Four marimbas have been shipped to the United States, and several orders are now being filled for American customers.

Although last year the demand for pianos was not large, all that were imported came from the United States. Local importers state that the demand for these musical instruments is not very great in Guatemala, inasmuch as they are beyond the purchasing power of all except the rich, and as a rule the local importers do not carry large stocks. Pianos of good make, however, and preferably those specially built for tropical countries (the climate of which is rather hard on ordinary pianos), are in fair demand.

Change in Conditions During War Period.

Prior to the European war the great majority of pianos sold in Guatemala were brought from Germany, and the German manufacturers dominated the market in competition with pianos from the United States and the few that were brought from other foreign countries. In 1915 the total number of pianos imported was 22, and all came from the United States. The dealers report that an instrument of German make, known as the Bluthner piano, was the greatest seller in the Guatemalan market. Not only was it cheaper and had a better finish than its competitors from other countries, but it was specially built for the tropics, and maintained its tone longer than other instruments. The cheaper Bluthner piano could

be bought in Germany at \$90 to \$100 United States gold, and was sold in Guatemala markets for \$200. Other and better instruments were sold up to \$600. The highest price paid for a piano in Guatemala was \$1,000.

Pianos made in the United States have been brought in during the past year or two and sold at \$300 to \$900. One firm alone reports the sale last year of 10 pianos, valued in the aggregate at \$5,000.

There is a close relation between the coffee industry and the piano business. Whenever there is a good year for coffee in Guatemala, there is a better demand for pianos. There are said to be at least 1,000 pianos in use in the Republic. A decided preference is shown by Guatemalans for pianos with black cases and finish, and for those equipped with music stands and candelabra attachment. Recently an American company built some pianos especially to meet this demand, and the dealers state that they had a ready sale.

Transportation Charges and Customs Duties.

It costs on an average \$70 to bring a medium-sized piano from New York to Guatemala City, and of this amount \$15 to \$20 represents the transportation charge from Puerto Barrios to Guatemala City. The customs duty on a piano averages \$70 or \$80 United States gold. It is computed on the basis of weight, at the rate of 17½ cents United States gold and 17½ cents Guatemalan currency for each kilo (2.2 pounds, or \$8.10 per 100 pounds).

The fact that selling terms by German manufacturers and dealers were more favorable than those obtainable in the United States is another reason given for the preference accorded to pianos of German make by the local dealers. The German manufacturers gave six months' credit. The usual terms given by American dealers are 30 days net, or 2 per cent discount for cash within 10 days.

It is believed here that American pianos can hold the market that is now theirs only by catering to local demand in the style and finish of pianos, and building instruments which are adapted for a tropical country.

Trade in Talking Machines and Player Pianos.

It is conservatively estimated that there are between 2,000 and 2,500 talking machines of every description now in use in the Republic of Guatemala. The first machine was imported from the United States 12 years ago, and the business continued to expand until, in 1915, one firm alone imported 200 machines valued in the aggregate at \$10,000. They are retailed locally at \$16 to \$350 each. Contrary to the customary conditions in other countries, the local dealers report that the more costly machines and the finer class of records are in the greatest demand.

A local company reports sales of nearly 200 machines in Guatemala last year, and it expects its business for this year to show an increase. The majority of all vocal records are in Spanish. A phonograph is a luxury beyond the means of the average peon, or Indian, and, though he shares the universal love of music, he has to forego the pleasure that the ownership of a machine would bring him.

[Lists of importers of and dealers in pianos and pianolas, graphophones, and other musical instruments in Guatemala City may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81593.]

DEVELOPMENT OF CATTLE INDUSTRY IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Oct. 10.]

The construction and operation at an early date of a packing house to be located near Quirigua, Guatemala, in Honduras, by Rafael Rodezno, a wealthy stock owner of Guatemala and a naturalized American, is expected to give an impetus to the cattle-raising industry in Guatemala and in Honduras, especially along the northern or Gulf coast.

Mr. Rodezno has obtained a concession from Honduras by the terms of which he is authorized to build and operate a packing plant on his ranch of 100,000 acres in Honduras. The plant will have the benefit of shipping facilities to Puerto Barrios provided by the lines of the International Railway of Central America. Shipments to the United States or other foreign countries will be made in bond through Guatemala.

Machinery has been ordered from the United States. The plant will be constructed in units, and the initial unit will have capacity of 50 head of cattle per day. The cost of the initial unit, with equipment, is estimated at \$50,000.

First Packing House in Central America.

It will be Central America's first killing plant or packing house. Negotiations looking to the establishment of such a plant in Guatemala, attempted in the past, have not resulted, it is said, in the requisite approval and concession by the Government.

It is estimated that there are now 1,000,000 head of cattle in the Republic. During 1915, according to Government reports, 100,000 head were slaughtered. The native cattle are much smaller than those of the United States. The characteristics are similar to those that were possessed by the Texas longhorns before that variety was improved by breeding. A native steer's weight averages 850 pounds, but they may be quickly improved by scientific breeding. Cattle owners are now breeding finer stocks. It is stated that 400 bulls were imported from the United States last year. Hereford and Little Holstein are the favorite varieties for crossing purposes. After being improved in this way, the Guatemalan steer weighs 1,100 to 1,200 pounds, and the quality of the meat also is improved.

Best Ranges Along Slopes of Pacific Coast.

The best ranges of the Republic are along the slopes of the Pacific coast, although cattle are also raised in the low countries of the Gulf coast and the highlands of the eastern section. From the latter region, however, they are usually taken to the Pacific coast section for fattening. They are fed entirely on grass and salt. Guinea grass and pampas grass grow luxuriantly on the ranges, and cattle imported from Honduras for fattening purposes are said frequently to double their weight in a year. On the Pacific coast ranges an acre and a half of land is usually allotted for feeding a steer. The cattle require little attention so that the cost of fattening is reduced to a minimum.

The fact that cattle are abundant and healthy as a rule results in a great demand for meat, especially as it is cheap. On October 13, 1916, a sale was made in Guatemala City of a consignment of fat cattle at \$1.70 Guatemalan currency (\$0.04 United States gold) per

pound, the cattle being sold on the hoof. Locally meat is retailed at \$3.50 to \$7 Guatemalan currency (\$0.09 to \$0.17 cents United States gold) per pound. In Guatemala City, and generally throughout the Republic, in the absence of any facilities for refrigerating, meat is consumed on the same day that the animals are slaughtered.

Attempts to Export Cattle Usually Unsuccessful.

On account of quarantine regulations in the United States against the tick and other diseases, and an export head tax of \$60 Guatemalan currency (\$1.50 United States gold), attempts to export cattle on the hoof from this country usually have been unsuccessful. Acting under a special concession permitting the exportation of 5,000 head, a company last year shipped 2,250 to the United States. The cattle were sold to the packing houses of St. Louis and Chicago for \$0.065 United States currency per pound. The animals were sent in three shipments, and an objection was made to the last shipment because a few of the cattle showed evidence of the tick. The exporters were advised by the officials of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry that Guatemalan cattle would not be permitted to enter as long as there was tick infection in this Republic. They were further informed that, to enter the United States, the cattle not only must be free of tick or other disease, but must have been kept in a zone free from tick contagion for 60 days prior to shipment. Leading growers are now dipping their cattle with arsenic and other approved solutions. They are generally meeting with satisfactory results in their efforts to stamp out the tick.

BRAZIL'S EXPORTS OF GOATSKINS.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro.]

Brazil ships yearly some \$3,000,000 worth of goatskins, the United States taking much the largest proportion of these cargoes, as the following export figures show:

Ports and countries.	1911	1912	1914	1915
Total exports	\$2, 778, 329	\$3, 115, 369	\$1, 610, 988	\$2, 748, 680
Ports of shipment:				
Maranhao			55	12, 203
Belem do Para	2, 067	29, 134		250
Ilha do Cajueiro	31, 233	32, 289	26, 140	16, 677
Portaleza	751, 888	755, 783	412, 876	562, 850
Natal	163, 139	137, 873	130, 177	115, 97
Cabedello	297, 848	538, 783	130, 017	302, 377
Pernambuco	323, 432	413, 184	168, 469	357, 423
Maceio	603, 946	621, 131	382, 896	625, 362
Bahia	604, 742	587, 192	360, 358	695, 541
Rio de Janeiro	34			30, 000
Countries of destination:				
Germany	161, 824	130, 718	12, 374	
Belgium	135, 612	286, 748	26, 026	
United States	1, 703, 545	1, 988, 303	1, 252, 826	2, 690, 590
France	387, 689	632, 832	120, 167	11, 000
Great Britain	389, 659	78, 768	197, 007	47, 090
Netherlands			2, 235	
Portugal			353	

The foregoing values represent total shipments of 4,784,700 pounds of goatskins in 1911, 5,158,000 pounds in 1912, 3,786,050 pounds in 1914, and 6,873,575 pounds in 1915.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

CANADA.

[Supplement to Canada Gazette, July 1.]

Bounty on Zinc.

A Canadian act of May 18, 1916, provides that when the standard price of zinc or spelter on the London market falls below £36 9s. 3d. per ton of 2,240 pounds a bounty equivalent to the difference may be paid on zinc and spelter mined and produced in Canada, which contains not more than 2 per cent of impurities. Such bounty is not to exceed 2 cents per pound, however, nor is it to be paid during the continuance of the war or after July 31, 1917. The total amount payable under the act is \$400,000.

MEXICO.

[Consul Wm. W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Aug. 18.]

New Customs Tariff.

A new customs tariff has been promulgated by the Carranza Government by a decree issued July 31, 1916, and is to come into effect November 1, 1916. The surtax of 10 per cent of the duties, which has been levied since 1912, is abolished, but from the revised schedules of duties on animal and vegetable products it appears that the new law will result in a decided increase in the rates of duty on most articles. Reduced rates are prescribed in the case of comparatively few articles included in these schedules, the reductions applying almost entirely to food products and raw materials. In addition to the changes in import duties, articles 214-216 of the former customs law, providing for the free admission of samples of small value, are repealed.

[Copies of all the schedules of the new tariff have not yet been received. Upon receipt of the entire law a further notice will be published in COMMERCE REPORTS.]

NICARAGUA.

[La Gaceta, July 17.]

Authorization of Tariff Increase.

A Nicaraguan law of July 7, 1916, in effect from the date of publication, authorizes the collection of 80 per cent instead of 60 per cent of the duties prescribed by the customs tariff of December 15, 1908. This increase, if put into effect by the president, is to apply to all articles imported into the Pacific ports, with the exception of sugar, flour, common soap, and plain cotton fabrics not exceeding 24 inches in width. The purpose of the law is to raise funds for the conversion of the internal debt. [Such an increase in duties was authorized by a law of Nov. 10, 1913, but the higher rates were never put into effect. For previous notices, see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 10, p. 84; No. 12, p. 159; and No. 13, p. 189.]

PERU.

[El Peruano, July 22.]

Export Duties on Rubber.

Export duties on all classes of rubber exported through the port of Mollendo or through the ports of the Madre de Dios, Yavari,

Purús, and Yuruá Rivers are established by a Peruvian decree of July 12, 1916. The duties are fixed at 2 per cent for rubber quoted in London at from 25 to 36 pence per pound, 4 per cent for that quoted at from 37 to 48 pence, and 6 per cent for that quoted at 49 pence per pound or more. The London quotations, with a reduction of 30 per cent, are to be taken as the basis for levying the duties. The duty on common rubber is to be further reduced by 30 per cent.

[The Peruvian duties under the present law are the same as those levied in Bolivia on exports of rubber under the law of November 13, 1913 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 13, p. 201). Dissatisfaction with the law has been expressed on the ground that it increases the difficulty of competition with the rubber producers of Brazil.]

URUGUAY.

[Diario Oficial, July 20.]

Proposed Reduction in Duties on Silk Goods.

A measure has been introduced in the Uruguayan Congress proposing to substitute an ad valorem duty of 12 per cent for the present duties, based on fixed valuations, applicable to a number of kinds of silk goods. The classes of goods affected are gloves, handkerchiefs, veils, tulle, satin, and various silk fabrics, whether of pure silk or containing other fibers in a proportion not exceeding 70 per cent. The present duties, except those on gloves, are 31 per cent on a fixed valuation ranging from 6 to 30 pesos per kilo, and to these are added surtaxes amounting to 14 per cent of the official valuation.

VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Aug. 21.]

Reduction on Fuel Oils.

A presidential decree of August 19, 1916, reduces the import duty on crude petroleum and heavy mineral oils not specified in the tariff from 0.10 to 0.0125 bolivar per kilo (from \$1.37 to \$0.1725 per 100 pounds, including surtaxes). Such products have also been exempted from consumption taxes by another decree of the same date. These concessions have been made in order to conserve the forests of the country by making available other fuel than wood and wood charcoal. The price of coal has become almost prohibitive since the outbreak of the war, although coal is on the free list. It is interesting to note that this is the first instance in which a duty of less than 0.05 bolivar per kilo (the rate applicable to articles included in the first class of the customs tariff) has been prescribed.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 531 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1030 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN FURS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Oct. 4.]

While accurate information is not obtainable as to the different kinds of furs imported into Canada, the value of these purchases during the last three fiscal years (ending Mar. 31) is officially stated to have been as follows:

Furs, and manufactures of, imported from—	Fiscal years ending Mar. 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
Astrakhan or Russian hare skins and China goat plates or rugs, wholly or partially dressed, but not dyed (free).....	\$86,086	\$126,015	\$101,390
United States.....	17,880	63,124	65,612
United Kingdom.....	16,723	45,127	16,323
China.....	26,895	5,485	540
Other countries.....	21,588	12,309	19,405
Fur skins of all kinds, not dressed in any manner, n. e. s. (free).....	2,211,877	1,328,864	1,966,581
United States.....	1,388,415	1,121,144	1,937,396
United Kingdom.....	250,269	68,239	33,067
Germany.....	411,607	118,601	.....
Russia.....	67,110	52	.....
Other countries.....	124,476	17,828	16,108
Fur skins, wholly or partially dressed, n. e. s. (dutiable).....	699,979	375,675	349,168
United States.....	148,503	135,252	239,820
United Kingdom.....	153,711	62,583	40,402
France.....	164,311	95,869	60,219
Germany.....	215,357	67,351	.....
Other countries.....	18,097	14,620	8,727
Manufactures of fur (dutiable).....	719,596	401,889	281,625
United States.....	215,203	159,705	161,376
United Kingdom.....	439,540	219,084	122,901
France.....	11,482	10,644	345
Germany.....	50,331	11,723	.....
Other countries.....	3,034	733	.....
Other furs (free).....	7,068	6,976	7,131
United States.....	6,809	6,638	6,631
United Kingdom.....	.....	.....	.....
Other countries.....	193	338	500
RECAPITULATION.			
United States.....	1,776,876	1,488,863	2,410,825
Dutiable.....	363,712	294,957	401,196
Free.....	1,413,164	1,193,906	2,009,629
United Kingdom.....	860,269	395,033	212,716
Dutiable.....	593,251	281,667	163,306
Free.....	267,018	113,366	49,410
Other countries.....	1,117,481	355,553	105,844
Dutiable.....	462,612	200,940	69,291
Free.....	654,869	154,613	36,553
Grand total.....	3,754,123	2,239,449	2,729,385
Dutiable.....	1,419,575	777,564	633,793
Free.....	2,335,051	1,461,885	2,095,592

United States Holds First Place as Supplier and Customer.

The foregoing figures represent the value of the imports for consumption. From them it will be noted that in the 12 months ending March 31, 1916, the United States led in the fur-import trade of Canada, supplying 88.3 per cent of the total imports, 95.9 per cent of the free goods, 63.3 per cent of the dutiable goods, and 97.5 per cent of the undressed furs, this being the chief category. In the preceding year the United States also occupied a commanding position as to free goods (81.7 per cent) and receipts of raw furs (84.6 per cent) and supplied 66.5 per cent of the total imports, but was credited with only 37.9 per cent of the dutiable goods. In 1914 the share of the United States stood at 47.3 per cent of the total imports, 60.5 per cent of the free goods, 25.6 per cent of the dutiable goods, and 61.9 per cent of the raw skins imported.

This new importance of the United States as a factor in the Canadian fur traffic extended to the export trade as well, for of the Do-

minion's total shipments of domestic furs and fur goods in the fiscal year just ended the United States took 78 per cent, against 48.4 per cent in 1915 and 38.4 per cent in 1914, as the following table discloses:

Furs, and manufactures of, exported to—	Fiscal years ending Mar. 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
Fur skins, dressed	\$11,550	\$29,862	\$110,198
United States.....	10,085	19,503	106,386
United Kingdom.....	1,261	6,300	2,605
Other countries.....	254	4,056	1,207
Fur skins, not dressed	5,557,926	2,726,961	4,668,139
United States.....	2,139,228	1,320,887	3,644,097
United Kingdom.....	3,059,305	1,297,702	929,217
Other countries.....	359,393	106,372	94,825
Fur skins, the produce of marine animals	45,203	12,574	19,156
United States.....	3,174	5,042	12,373
United Kingdom.....	42,029	7,528	6,717
Other countries.....	.....	4	66
Manufactures of fur	53,070	29,808	37,192
United States.....	23,992	8,537	10,560
United Kingdom.....	21,597	17,097	19,282
Other countries.....	7,481	4,174	7,350
Grand total	5,667,749	2,799,205	4,834,685
United States.....	2,176,429	1,353,972	3,773,416
United Kingdom.....	3,124,192	1,328,627	957,821
Other countries.....	357,128	116,606	103,448

In addition to the shipments of domestic furs above shown, Canada reexported \$156,553 worth of foreign raw, dressed, and manufactured furs in the fiscal year 1914, \$107,379 worth in 1915, and \$102,314 worth in 1916. Of these the United States took \$88,738 worth in 1914, \$91,019 in 1915, and \$61,030 in 1916. The cargoes were made up largely of undressed skins.

Production, by Classes.

As already stated, Canada's imports of furs have not been classified to show the quantities of each kind of fur brought in, and this is also true of the exports. The most recent data of this character relating to the domestic production of furs are for 1910, in which year the value of the principal classes of skins and furs of wild animals collected in the Dominion was:

Kind of fur.	Number.	Value	Kind of fur.	Number.	Value.
Assorted.....	.....	\$445,320	Muskrat	915,754	\$256,213
Bear	4,509	44,923	Otter	5,721	102,291
Beaver	24,895	131,833	Seal (fur)	5,108	32,997
Fox	17,589	222,145	All others	91,036	133,989
Lynx (including wildcat)	8,159	114,756			
Marten	31,437	221,583	Total.....	.....	1,927,550
Mink	45,973	221,500			

The first item in the above table, "assorted furs," represents, for the most part, the production of furs from Indian reservations, where it is not possible to obtain statistics of the number of skins of the various classes.

The production of furs in Canada in 1910 was more than double that of 1900, the value increasing by 114.25 per cent during the decade. It is said that while fur values have risen in recent years the number of skins collected shows a decrease in each class on account of the gradual settlement of previously uninhabited regions and because of the efforts of the Dominion and the various provincial governments to insure a closed season for the preservation of game and fur-bearing animals.

LARGE INCREASE IN THE TRADE OF DURBAN.

[Vice Consul Hugh S. Hood, Durban, Natal, South Africa, Sept. 7.]

The import and export trade of Durban, Natal, for the first six months of the current year shows a considerable improvement as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The total value of merchandise imported amounted to \$32,185,371, compared with \$18,802,096 for the first six months of 1915, or an increase of \$13,383,275. The total value of exports of merchandise for the first half of 1916 amounted to \$10,021,170, against \$9,712,526 in 1915, or an increase of \$308,644.

Principal Imports.

The following table shows the articles and customs value of imports of merchandise into Durban from all countries for the first six months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Animals, living.....	\$39,428	\$31,637	Paints and painters' goods,	\$126,606	\$271,588
Antifrifion grease.....	32,294	45,507	Palm kernels.....	56,451	.....
Apparel and slops.....	560,088	1,482,686	Paper, wall, etc.....	160,234	383,490
Arms and ammunition.....	265,511	534,459	Perfumed spirits.....	8,833	21,846
Assay apparatus.....	26,980	25,802	Perfumery.....	40,106	71,815
Bags (not leather).....	980,665	1,491,981	Photographic material.....	5,646	7,383
Basketware and rattans.....	3,553	14,244	Plate, silverware.....	18,871	46,592
Beads, all sorts.....	21,972	22,916	Printers' and bookbinders'		
Binding twine.....	131	15,797	materials.....	14,327	44,232
Blasting compound, ex-			Quicksilver.....	115,369	58,106
cept dynamite.....	20,904	2,784	Rails.....	26,897	87,602
Brass and manufactures.....	17,715	42,737	Railway material.....	84,774	26,581
Brushware.....	19,607	54,938	Saddlery and shoemakers'		
Canvas and duck.....	42,558	55,288	materials.....	16,560	20,181
Cement.....	48,567	66,627	Seeds (all kinds except po-		
Clocks and watches.....	14,006	36,119	tato).....	21,602	35,925
Copper and manufactures.....	16,639	27,394	Sheep and cattle dip.....	35,140	46,499
Cordage and rope.....	50,392	72,988	Ship-chandlers' stores.....	11,451	5,480
Corks and bungs.....	16,371	26,085	Silk manufactures.....	82,967	147,119
Cotton manufactures.....	1,297,691	3,009,088	Soap.....	71,581	96,301
Drugs and chemicals.....	959,843	1,121,237	Solder.....	6,755	9,704
Earthen and china ware.....	66,778	182,328	Sporting goods.....	24,576	42,533
Electrical cable and wire.....	123,726	341,847	Stationery and books.....	245,155	418,086
Electrical fittings.....	132,272	307,198	Sulphur rock.....	72,370	98,976
Enameled ware.....	16,941	57,371	Surgical and dental appli-		
Felt.....	14,589	22,761	cances.....	38,879	39,044
Food and drink.....	4,424,598	5,708,186	Tallow and grease.....	141,972	77,470
Footwear (not leather).....	8,673	23,418	Tar and kindred sub-		
Furniture.....	185,277	414,679	stances.....	15,822	22,060
Glass and glassware.....	97,325	281,376	Telegraph and telephone		
Glycerin.....	509,780	703,968	material.....	9,655	12,147
Haberdashery and millin-			Tents and tarpaulins.....	11,411	14,721
ery.....	383,621	763,637	Tin and tinware.....	63,878	68,588
Hardware and cutlery.....	817,660	1,495,821	Tobacco, raw and manu-		
Hats and caps.....	66,807	182,397	factured.....	36,172	94,232
Hides and skins.....	5,728	30,844	Toys and fancy goods.....	29,500	79,499
Hops.....	22,810	34,041	Tobaccoists' wares.....	7,829	25,004
Hose, conveying.....	46,353	67,849	Tramway material.....	57,580	23,792
Implemente, agricultural.....	135,503	268,626	Vehicles:		
India rubber.....	56,292	308,677	Bicycles and tricycles.....	27,783	54,510
Instruments.....	57,999	100,181	Carts, carriages.....	20,877	34,465
Iron and steel manufac-			Motor cars and parts.....	147,416	549,919
tures.....	616,337	1,364,085	Motorcycles and parts.....	38,134	230,098
Jute goods and Hessian.....	36,879	26,411	All other wheeled		
Lamp ware.....	16,298	67,411	vehicles.....	13,013	47,293
Lead.....	71,981	49,882	Wax, paraffin.....	287,632	183,808
Leather and leather goods:			Wood and timber:		
Manufactured.....	294,126	700,469	Manufactured.....	141,897	404,761
Unmanufactured.....	171,105	73,285	Unmanufactured.....	166,254	658,301
Linen manufactures.....	17,048	26,474	Woolen manufactures.....	235,532	443,937
Machinery (except loco-			Zinc and zincwares, manu-		
motive parts).....	1,957,472	2,407,526	factured.....	208,923	765,140
Manures and fertilizers.....	66,389	63,703	All other articles of mer-		
Nitrates.....	91,383	783,156	chandise.....	226,387	319,284
Oilman's stores.....	131,468	202,753			
Oil seeds, nuts, and beans.....		23,369	Total imports of		
Oils.....	571,016	836,415	merchandise.....	18,802,096	32,185,371

In addition to the above total the imports for the South African Government were valued at \$1,596,446 for the first six months of

1916 against \$2,774,596 for the corresponding period in 1915, and the imports of specie amounted to \$54,811 and \$1,950,980, respectively.

Exports of Merchandise.

The following table represents the exports of merchandise from Durban to all countries during the first six months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Animals, living.....	number..	87		\$4,234
Bark.....	pounds..	38,298,504	405,140	674,784
Blasting compound.....	do.....	10,000	1,509	801,021
Candles.....	do.....	12,643	1,080	6,297
Coal.....	tons &.....	502,035	1,712,793	292,190
Cotton, raw.....	pounds..	83,653	11,845	1,917
Feathers, ostrich.....	do.....	3,621	12,356	
Fodder and forage.....	do.....	5,614,077	69,333	39,842
Food and drink.....			3,433,850	2,155,441
Glycerin.....	pounds..	175,508	23,374	
Hair, angora.....	do.....	683,613	101,822	107,598
Hides and skins.....	do.....	7,289,349	803,765	926,688
Horns, ox and cow.....	do.....	252,365	12,468	3,470
Oil, whale.....	gallons..	418,002	106,264	114,991
Ores and minerals.....	pounds..	1,013	487,190	300,886
Soap, common and toilet.....	do.....	6,578	593	16,210
Waste, residue (except oil and manures).....			7,408	6,434
Wool.....	pounds..	35,501,256	4,827,207	4,452,414
All other merchandise.....			79,078	106,733
Total.....		9,712,526		10,021,170

a Ton of 2,000 pounds.

Import and Export Trade by Countries.

There was an increase of \$1,810,660 in the imports from the United States and the Philippine Islands during the first half of 1916 compared with the corresponding period in 1915, and those from Great Britain and possessions show a large increase. American purchases of South African goods also show a considerable gain.

The following table gives the values of the imports and the exports into and from Durban, by countries of origin and destination, during the 1915 and 1916 periods:

Countries.	Imports from.		Exports to.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
Argentina.....	\$350,203	\$5,917	\$20,361	\$42,533
Belgium.....	9,465	13,417		
Brazil.....	173,155	251,876		
British Empire.....	13,781,645	23,091,119	7,387,556	8,577,148
Chile.....	91,140	783,224		
China.....	46,134	150,691		6,960
Central American States.....	42,270	29,759		
Cuba.....	3,173	20,619		
Denmark.....	102,839	105,140		159,227
Egypt.....	4,681	4,146	16,644	30,430
France and possessions.....	232,059	495,978	55,036	34,684
Germany and possessions.....	76,770	8,117		
Greece.....	9,212	23,792		
Italy.....	279,084	210,675		
Japan.....	176,162	545,890		4,171
Netherlands and Dutch East Indies.....	386,818	567,891		
Norway.....	120,914	227,261		
Portugal and possessions.....	35,585	76,205	41,730	52,797
Russia.....	5,988	118,403		104,297
Spain.....	18,535	63,196		
Spain and Canary Islands.....	60,584	121,317		
Sweden.....	257,603	877,065		
Switzerland.....	114,844	183,935		
United States and Philippine Islands.....	2,367,767	4,196,427	680,999	1,006,822
Other foreign countries.....	35,498	11,311		
Total.....	18,802,096	32,185,371	8,202,326	10,021,169

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Ontario.....	.....do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Waddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

EXPORTS OF CRUDE RUBBER FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para, Oct. 6.]

The total exports of crude rubber from Para, Manaos, and Itacoatiara, Brazil, during September, 1916, amounted to 4,992,538 pounds, compared with 5,860,355 pounds for the corresponding month in 1915. Shipments to the United States aggregated 3,007,810 pounds and to Europe 1,984,728 pounds, as compared with 4,664,123 and 1,196,232 pounds, respectively, in September of last year. The several grades of rubber exported are shown in the following table:

Grade.	From Para.		From Manaos.		From Itacoatiara.	
	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Fine.....	965,552	620,767	834,350	774,364	.....	15,079
Medium.....	97,442	11,067	189,187	74,545	.....	1,088
Coarse.....	520,739	30,942	205,037	21,414	.....	8,929
Caucho.....	110,163	120,573	55,343	305,615	.....	375
Total.....	1,723,893	783,349	1,283,917	1,175,938	.....	25,441

AMERICAN COTTON GINNED.

The census cotton report shows 8,619,063 bales, counting round as half bales, ginned from the growth of 1916 to November 1, compared with 7,378,886 for 1915 and 9,826,912 for 1914. Round bales included this year are 153,698, compared with 68,577 for 1915 and 23,182 for 1914. Sea island included 80,310 bales for 1916, 55,362 bales for 1915, and 43,115 bales for 1914.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Floating crane, No. 3777.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 11, 1916, for a 250-ton floating revolving crane, for the navy yard, Mare Island, Cal. Specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Absorbent cotton, No. 3778.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 13, 1916, for furnishing 22,000 pounds of absorbent cotton.

Charter of launches, No. 3779.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Inspector, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Custom House, San Francisco, Cal., until November 15, 1916, for charter of two launches of about 40 to 50 feet in length and one launch about 30 to 35 feet in length, for the use of Coast Survey parties in San Francisco Bay. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Hydrogen cylinders, No. 3780.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for furnishing 400 seamless hydrogen cylinders, designed to hold 200 cubic feet of hydrogen at pressure of 2,000 pounds per square inch. Further information will be furnished upon application to the above-named office. (Proposal No. 886.)

Construction, No. 3781.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Room 415 Custom House, Cincinnati, Ohio, until December 11, 1916, for constructing an extension below abutment at Dam No. 4, part of guide wall and a guard wall at Lock No. 8, and an extension of a revetment in the canal at Lock No. 10, Muskingum River, Ohio. Further information may be obtained on application to the above-named office. Plans will be on exhibition at that office and at the United States Engineer Sub-office at Zanesville, Ohio.

Coal for lighthouse tenders, No. 3782.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Ketchikan, Alaska, until December 18, 1916, for furnishing steam coal for lighthouse tenders, approximately 400 tons at Ketchikan and 200 tons at Juneau, Alaska. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Sodium nitrate, No. 3783.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until November 23, 1916, for supplying 28,000,000 pounds, more or less, of sodium nitrate, in accordance with specifications, copies of which may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Subsistence supplies, No. 3784.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the depot quartermaster, United States Army, Chicago, Ill., until November 24, 1916, for furnishing canned salmon, beans, rice, tomatoes, tea, sugar, evaporated milk, vinegar, spices, flavoring extracts, tobacco and cigars, flour, lard, oatmeal, olive oil and olives, etc.

Construction, No. 3785.—Sealed proposals will be received at Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 20, 1916, for the construction complete of two interior safety vault entrances in the United States customhouse, New Orleans, La. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3786.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer, the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 17, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel, bolts, lock nuts, nails, rivets, nuts, screws, washers, pipe fittings, key seater, lathe, grinding attachment, tool grinder, sanitary fixtures, valves, cocks, flush pipe, lead traps, clean-outs, test plugs, wash-tray plugs, force cups, copper gaskets, packing, belting, seaming brushes, memorandum books, cardboard, ledger paper, carbon paper, and lumber. (Circular No. 1095.)

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural machinery	22944.	Machinery, cigarette-making	22940.
Bags	22943.	Machinery, distillery and sugar	22941.
Celluloid	22947.	Machinery, saw	22937.
Coffee mills	22938.	Machinery, starch and glucose	22941.
Crockery and glassware	22938.	Motion picture machines, etc.	22945.
Dairy machinery	22944.	Musical instruments, etc.	22939, 22947.
Dry goods	22945.	Paper	22946.
Engines, gasoline	22937.	Plated ware	22943.
Excelsior	22949.	Polish, shoe and metal	22948.
Fiber goods	22943.	Provisions	22945.
General merchandise	22945.	Stonecutters' tools, etc.	22942.
Groceries	22945.	Stoves, gasoline	22938.
Hardware	22943.	Toilet requisites	22943.
Household and kitchen ware	22943.	Veneers	22950.
Lanterns	22938.	Wooden ware	22943.
Machinery	22941.		

22937.†—A man engaged in the "tagua" or ivory-nut industry in Ecuador desires to purchase a small circular-saw outfit, propelled by a gasoline engine, to be used for the removal of defective parts from the ivory nut.

22938.*—An import firm in East Africa desires to receive catalogues with prices and discounts given on medium and cheap grades of crockery, china, and glassware, coffee mills (hand), gasoline cooking stoves, and lanterns.

22939.†—A firm in the United Kingdom desires to enter into commercial relations with manufacturers of autoharps and accordions.

22940.†—A man in Mexico writes that he is in the market for cigarette-making machinery, more particularly the machine for cutting up the leaves and the machine for crimping the cigarette.

22941.*—A wholesale machinery importer in Spain is desirous of purchasing machinery in general, and more especially machinery for use in the sugar industry, alcohol distilling, and machinery for corn derivatives such as starch and glucose. Correspondence in English. Reference.

22942.*—A man in Canada is in the market for stonecutters' tools, etc., for monument and gravestone work.

22943.*—A firm in South Africa desires to secure the agencies for light hardware, toilet, household, and kitchen requisites, plated ware, woodenware, enameled hollow ware, bags, and fiber goods. References.

22944.*—Quotations (in Russian currency) are desired in Russia on 50 reaping machines, 20 binding machines, 20 hay-cutting machines, 15 sowers, and 500 plows. Catalogues and price lists are also desired on other agricultural and dairy machinery. Correspondence in Russian.

22945.*—Agencies on a commission basis are desired in Venezuela for groceries, provisions, dry goods, and general merchandise. Correspondence in Spanish preferred.

22946.†—A man in France desires to represent American manufacturers of motion-picture machines and accessories, and medium-grade paper for all purposes. Reference.

22947.*—A firm of commission agents in India desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of harmonium reeds and celluloid sheets.

22948.*—A firm in Spain is desirous of importing shoe polish and metal polish. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

22949.*—A hardware firm in Canada is in the market for excelsior.

22950.*—A firm in Australia wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers of veneers.

FRANCE COMMERCE REPORTS



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LABELING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IN CHILE.

According to a cablegram from the commercial attaché at Santiago, received November 8, the regulations requiring that pharmaceutical products imported into Chile bear on the label the formula of the preparation have been suspended until January 1, 1917. [Notices on this subject appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 29 and Oct. 21, 1916.]

JAPAN-BRAZIL LINE TO PROMOTE EMIGRATION.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.]

Mr. Akira Toshima, who has been in Brazil nine years studying its finances, commerce, and production, as representative of the Toyo Imim Goshi Kaisha and the Nippon Boyer Kaisha (Oriental Navigation Co. and Japanese Commercial & Navigation Co.), has left for the United States, en route to Japan, to put in operation plans which have been consummated for the establishment of a line of steamers from Japan to Brazil.

It is stated that the first steamer, of 6,000 tons register, will leave Japan next February, and in addition to special cargo will bring 900 emigrants. According to arrangements which it is said have been made, Japan is to send every year, beginning next February, 5,000 immigrants to be employed in accordance with the regulations of the national authorities in the cultivation of rice, beans, potatoes, onions, and coffee.

Heretofore Japanese products which have been introduced into Brazil were principally toys and fancy articles. It is expected, however, that with the new steamship line in operation considerable business can be done in Japanese codfish, rice, cement, silk and other textiles, various cereals, and some manufactured articles.

[Plans for steamship service between Japan and Brazil were noted in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 7 and Aug. 30, 1916.]

Production of alcohol from the 1916 Austrian potato crop has been forbidden, Vice Consul Robert S. Townsend, of Carlsbad, Bohemia, reports, under date of October 10.

SWITZERLAND'S DEMAND FOR LEATHER.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 30.]

The needs of Switzerland in the leather trade are in the hands of an import syndicate, known as Importstelle des Verbandes Schweiz, Lederhändler, Laupenstrasse, Berne, Switzerland. Dr. W. Martin, of Berne, manager of the syndicate, declares himself ready to submit offers from American exporters to any member interested in the lines offered. A detailed offer, therefore, in quadruplicate for distribution and addressed to the syndicate should not fail of a hearing. The by-laws of the syndicate contain statements regarding the rules that govern imports.

A similar syndicate, but not in this consular district, is the Import-Sndikat der Schweizerischen Schuhindustrie, Olten, Soleure, Switzerland. Its membership is composed principally of shoe operators of the country. It is believed that this syndicate also would welcome offers from the United States.

Trade Anxious to Obtain Sole Leather.

The trade is especially anxious to obtain sole leather. Offers of hemlock, as well as split leather, therefore, should excite great interest. There is also a very large demand for light leathers, such as chamois, linings, sheep, etc.

The big stocks of uppers, glazed kid, and patent leathers, in the country at the outbreak of the war, and big subsequent shipments account for the present small demand for that class of goods except for chevreau, which, it is believed, would find a ready sale.

Germany, in former years, supplied the country with split leather obtained by it in the raw state from the United States.

Leather prices have gone up considerably in Switzerland, some as much as 100 per cent. Present prices for hemlock in halves are \$1.15 to \$1.40 per 2.2 pounds; in bends, \$1.54; for split leather, \$1.25 to \$1.65 (English); box calf, \$1 to \$1.50; patent leather (made from split), \$1.25 to \$1.45 (German); chevreau, \$0.50 to \$1 per 2.2 pounds.

Terms of Payment and Customs Charges.

The retail trade is supplied almost entirely by the dealers, while shoe factories make their purchases usually from manufacturers. Dealers and shoe factories alike generally buy on firm account, payment cash against documents, but old established dealers, before the war, also obtained a discount of 2 per cent and at times as much as 6 months' credit.

The duty on leather, according to the Swiss customs tariff, No. 177, which comprises sole leather of every kind, as well as heads and bellies, hemlock stamped for soles, not cut, split lissé, is \$3.08 per 220 pounds; upper leather, No. 178, calf, natural brown color, blackened, \$4.63; No. 179, same, grained, blackened, \$3.47; No. 180, small leather and neat's leather, brown or blackened, \$1.93; No. 181, other kinds of upper leather, \$0.72; No. 184, not otherwise described leathers, such as sheep and goat, russia leather, etc., \$0.77.

Sheepskins and goatskins are not obtainable here on account of a shortage in Switzerland. A Swiss embargo on the export of skins has been effective since October 20, 1914.

Imports for the Past Two Years.

Swiss imports of sole leather of every kind, as well as heads and bellies, hemlock stamped for soles, not cut, split lissé, in 1915, were 3,801,426 pounds, valued at \$1,668,950, of which the United States supplied 3,560,244 pounds. Imports in 1914 were 2,790,609 pounds, valued at \$1,135,520.

The imports of upper leather, calf, nature brown, blackened, in 1915 were 51,365 pounds, valued at \$51,087, and in 1914, 45,856 pounds, valued at \$46,513.

Imports of upper leather, calf, grained, blackened, in 1915 were 267,198 pounds, valued at \$391,336, of which the United States furnished 8,598 pounds. Those in 1914 were 263,672 pounds, valued at \$367,780.

Imports of small leather, neat's leather, brown and blackened, in 1915 were 100,747 pounds, valued at \$62,161, of which the United States furnished 27,557 pounds. Those in 1914 were 224,429 pounds, valued at \$132,667.

Imports of other upper leathers in 1915 were 2,023,398 pounds, valued at \$1,395,851, of which the United States supplied 1,186,086 pounds. Those in 1914 were 1,359,590 pounds, valued at \$1,054,113.

Imports of leathers not otherwise described, such as linings, russia leather, chamois, etc., in 1915 were 807,551 pounds, valued at \$488,908, of which the United States supplied 83,555 pounds. Those in 1916 were 636,915 pounds, valued at \$333,050.

[Lists of leather dealers and shoe manufacturers in the Berne consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. A copy of the by-laws of the Swiss leather-import syndicate may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81213.]

CONDITION OF THE EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Oct. 5; data taken from the September Bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture.]

Hot weather during the first half of September indicated maturity of more cotton than was anticipated from August conditions. Dampness and cool nights in the second half of September, however, counteracted the expected improvement.

The pink-bollworm attack has considerably increased in intensity throughout the country and notably in Upper Egypt. The common bollworm (*Earias*) shows a slight increase over last month. Cotton stainer was prevalent in one district, and an extensive attack of aphid has been reported in another. Little damage, however, has resulted.

The first picking has been completed in several Provinces, but the yield is very uneven, being disappointing in the majority and normal only in a few. On the whole, the yield of the crop this year is likely to be appreciably below average.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES FOR RUSSIAN CROPS.

[L'Économiste Européen, Oct. 13.]

According to preliminary figures of the Russian Central Statistical Committee, the crops of 48 Governments of European Russia in 1916 are as follows: Rye, 23,527,000 short tons; wheat, 17,861,000 tons; oats, 13,921,000 tons; barley, 10,617,000 tons.

BOOKBINDING SUPPLIES IN SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 5.]

The Swiss trade in bookbinding supplies is in the hands of wholesalers at Zurich, Basel, and Berne. One of the largest, a Berne firm, not only supplies the bookbinding trade, but the typographical trade as well. Germans sold to the trade chiefly through Swiss wholesale dealers, yielding the latter 20 to 50 per cent. Since the outbreak of hostilities, German shipments have consisted of stock goods. New goods are now manufactured only on special request, and at prices ranging from 40 to 70 per cent above normal. Long terms of delivery also are required by the Germans.

Articles Which Are in Special Demand.

Next in importance have been English goods of medium quality, and limited Italian shipments of very low-grade articles. Both are still supplying the trade, but deliveries are from 4 to 8 months. English and Italian prices have increased 10 per cent. Among the articles for which there is a great demand are goods colored through and through. An article called double calico, in various colors, used for the back of the book, is also sought after. It sells at \$0.56 per meter.

For students' books and note pads the so-called American cloth (Wachstuch) is in demand. It sells at \$2.05 per roll of 11 meters (36 feet), width 120/124 centimeters (centimeter=0.39 inch).

There is also a good demand for cotton gauze as used in the bookbinding trade. It is desired in different thicknesses. It is sold according to the number of threads and at \$1.54 to \$2.12 per roll of 20 meters, width 1 to 1.15 meters (meter=3.28 feet). Only a part of these goods are made in the country, and the demand is greater than the home supply.

Moleskin cloth also is used for press copy books and large account books. Heavy qualities of cloth in green and gray colors are preferred. To-day's prices are \$0.30 to \$0.50 per meter, in rolls of 80 meters, width 83/85 centimeters.

Imitation-leather linen, in various colors and designs, is sold in the local market at \$0.21 per meter, in rolls of 50 to 80 meters, width 1 meter.

Quantity and Value of Swiss Imports.

The Swiss imports of these articles for 1915 do not appear this year. The 1914 figures, the latest available, are as follows:

Countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
Bookbinder's linen, smooth:	<i>Pounds.</i>		Bookbinder's linen, grained:	<i>Pounds.</i>	
Germany.....	35,715	\$11,256	Germany.....	60,627	\$19,637
Austria.....	220	73	Austria.....	60,220	71
France.....	3,006	1,023	France.....	2,866	976
England.....	1,764	541	Italy.....	6,834	2,094
			England.....	22,046	6,948
Total 1914.....	40,705	12,803	Total 1914.....	92,593	29,728
Total 1913.....	50,706	15,962	Total 1913.....	145,505	46,719

The duty on bookbinders' linen, smooth, according to the Swiss customs tariff, No. 377a, is \$5.79 per 220 pounds; the same article, grained, No. 377b, \$2.89. On American cloth (Wachstuch), oilcloth,

or imitation-leather articles, according to No. 394, it is \$2.89; on bookbinders' cotton (gauze), No. 361, \$1.93 per 220 pounds.

A list of the principal consumers of bookbinding fabrics, who make purchases mostly from wholesalers, but who at times also buy from Swiss manufacturers and make direct importations from foreign manufacturers, is forwarded. In submitting offers to local dealers and consumers it is advisable to indicate the width of the article offered and the minimum quantity for which trial orders will be accepted.

It is suggested that American exporters send their sample collections by registered parcel post, addressed to the American consul, Berne, Switzerland, and marked "Muster ohne Gebrauchswert" (sample without selling value), to avoid its detention by the local customs authorities.

[A list of consumers of bookbinding fabrics in the Berne, Switzerland, consular district and the name of a wholesaler of bookbinding fabrics at Berne may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81438.]

PROPOSED SPANISH FOREIGN TRADE BANK.

[Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 19.]

The Gaceta de Madrid of October 2 publishes a decree authorizing the Minister of Finance to present to the Cortes a bill to provide for the formation of a bank, to be known as the Banco Español De Comercio Exterior and having its headquarters at Madrid, for making advances with a view to the extension of foreign trade.

The operations of the proposed bank are defined as follows: The granting of credit to facilitate the export of goods of all kinds, and the import of raw materials and accessories for agriculture and national industries; the discount, purchase, and sale of international drafts in any currency; the opening of credits in foreign money for operations abroad; the "nationalization" of acceptances and drafts resulting from the importation of foreign merchandise; the establishment of general merchandise warehouses and of free zones; the formation of information bureaus and commercial museums; the granting of loans for guaranteeing vessels; and maritime insurance.

The capital of the bank will be fixed by the Government and is to be not less than 40,000,000 pesetas [approximately \$8,000,000]. It is to be subscribed either by means of a competition between Spanish banking concerns or by public subscription and will be represented by registered shares ("acciones nominativas"). The shares in the hands of foreigners must not exceed one-fifth of the capital issue. The State will give an annual subsidy to the bank of a maximum sum of 5 per cent of its share capital.

VIENNA'S EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul General Albert Halstead, Vienna, Austria, Oct. 10.]

The total value of the merchandise declared at the Vienna consulate general for shipment to the United States during the first nine months of 1916 was \$178,098. Of this amount \$110,175 covered cargoes forwarded in the first quarter, \$36,456 in the second, and \$31,467 in the third.

• CORAL PRODUCTION IN ITALY.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, Jr., Venice, Sept. 30.]

Venice is a center for tourist trade in coral and shell cameos, and inquiries for coral articles often come to this consulate from those who believe that Venice is extensively interested in the manufacture of such goods. Trinkets and cameos of coral are often most skillfully mounted by the expert jewelers of Venice, but coral itself is never gathered or worked here.

Signor L. Borriello, of Rome, in an article in a scientific magazine published at Milan, Italy, gives some interesting facts regarding coral from which the following extracts have been translated:

(1) Coral fishing is carried on in Italy by fishers of Torre del Greco (Naples), of Leghorn, and of Genoa; in other countries by Greeks, Turks, and Japanese.

Processes Employed in Manufacture.

(2) The manufacture of coral is confined to Torre del Greco. In other cities, such as Naples, Rome, and Paris, often pointed out as centers of coral manufacture, only the mounting of coral in metal is done. The manufacture is entirely by hand, because this material, on account of its many irregularities, can not be worked by machines. Coral, therefore, must be cut, sieved, bored, planed, rounded, and polished, branch by branch. Each of these operations requires special workers (men and women), who use special instruments and work tables. Thus cutting is done with files (triangular, flat, rectangular, and toothed), and with nippers. Sieving is done with special sieves and distributes the cut coral according to size. The boring is intrusted solely to women. This work is done by means of a special type of small perforators. Leveling or planing is done by threading the bored corals on iron wire, laying them on a beam of hard wood and passing over them, at a regulated pressure, a grindstone dipped in water. This work is also done solely by women. Afterwards the coral is rounded or turned, either at the grindstone, if the edges alone are to be rounded off, or with a file, if the so-called "pallini" (small balls) are desired.

Buttons, Pendants, and Other Objects.

For other objects, such as buttons, pendants, horns, and reels, much the same processes are employed, with some omissions. The bars, for example, do not require boring; the horns and buttons do not need leveling. Coral may be worked with the chisel to make cameos, flowers, animals, and lettering. In this case the work of reducing its thickness is limited to the cutting and the grindstone wheel.

(3) Polishing of coral follows immediately the work of the file or chisel. Then it is a matter of polishing either a quantity of coral, uniform or of medium size, or special pieces such as penholders or cameos. In the first case a quantity of coral is put into a small bag of strong, raw linen together with crushed pumice stone and the bag is shaken in a special tub with a hole for drainage under a small column of water. When the coral is well pumiced it is washed and passed into a clean bag. Instead of the pumice the so-called "pulimento" (red or white) is used, and the former operation is repeated, first without water, then with a little, and finally with much water, when the coral has become brilliant.

Origin of Pulimento Unknown to Workers.

What the "pulimento" is the inhabitants of Torre del Greco, while so proud and jealous of their industry, have never taken the trouble to find out, as indeed what the "acqua ossigenata" (hydrogen peroxide) is, which is used to change the color of the coral, black when extracted from the sea, to red. As for the "pulimento," I believe it is not at all different from that which the jewelers use to polish precious stones.

If a single piece is to be polished, the process used is that for polishing shells, by means of finely powdered pumice stone mixed with common oil. The grease is removed by soap and water, pulimento, or common chalk with sulphuric acid.

(4) The coral trade of Torre del Greco branches out everywhere, especially to India, where Calcutta has been for very many years the largest coral market, to the United States, to Russia, and to Turkey.

Visitors to Naples may easily make a trip to Torre del Greco, where it will not be difficult to obtain admission to the Royal School for the Incision of Coral for the Decorative and Industrial Arts, or they may visit some of the better known manufactories, such as those of D'Elia, Mazza, Borriello, Scognamiglio, Vitiello, or Sorrentino. Prof. Cav. Enrico Taverna is director of this school, and persons interested in coral manufacture may write to him or to Signor L. Borriello at Rome.

MOVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN COTTON AND COTTON SEED.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Oct. 4.]

Statistics of the movement of Egyptian cotton for the "cotton" year from September 1, 1915, to August 31, 1916, compiled by the Alexandria General Produce Association, disclose a stock of 9,211,558 pounds on hand at the latter date:

	Pounds.
Stocks at Alexandria, September 1, 1915.....	88, 186, 296
Arrivals up to August 31, 1916.....	476, 062, 279
Total	564, 248, 575
Exports.....	548, 054, 063
Local consumption.....	5, 596, 268
Destroyed by fire.....	1, 386, 686
Total	555, 037, 017
Stock on hand August 31, 1916.....	9, 211, 558

The year's exports, stated in bales approximating 800 pounds each, went to: United States, 184,544; England, 355,669; Spain, 20,332; France, 45,812; Japan, 25,801; Italy, 52,516; Russia, 42,619; India, Portugal, and Greece, 1,026; total, 728,319 bales.

England the Chief Purchaser of Cotton Seed.

Similar data regarding the year's movement of cotton seed reveal a stock on hand on August 31, 1916, of 138,822 bushels, as contrasted with a carry-over of 74,038 bushels for the preceding year:

	Bushels.
Stocks at Alexandria, September 1, 1915.....	74, 038
Arrivals up to August 31, 1916.....	14, 289, 476
Total	14, 363, 514
Exports.....	10, 675, 204
Local consumption.....	3, 549, 488
Total	14, 224, 692
Stock on hand August 31, 1916.....	138, 822

Of the exports England took 10,652,748 bushels and France all of the remainder.

Brazilian Exporter Desires American Connections.

The Rio de Janeiro consulate general has forwarded the name of a Brazilian exporter who states that he is in position to ship native medicinal plants and roots, rock crystal, mangrove bark and leaves, minerals of various kinds, vanilla beans, yellow topaz, kaolin, and colored sand, and also birds, insects, monkeys, and snakes. His address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 78510.

THE ATTAR OF ROSE INDUSTRY IN BULGARIA.

[Consul General D. J. Murphy, Sofia, Sept. 1.]

The most ancient and most attractive Bulgarian industry is the cultivation of the rose, from which is distilled the well-known essence "Attar of Rose." Bulgaria's extensive rose fields are on the southern slopes of the Balkan Mountains, the rose district being 80 miles in length, 30 miles in width, with an average height above sea level of 1,300 feet.

Several conditions are essential for the cultivation of the rose and the production of the attar: The soil must be easily permeable to water; the bushes must be protected from the cold north winds of the winter; there must be no excess of unseasonable rain and no early and excessive droughts. These conditions all exist in the "Rose Valley," where the rose thrives as in no other spot on earth. After Bulgaria attained its independence from Turkey in 1878, the Ottoman Government attempted to establish the rose industry in Asia Minor, many acres of gardens being planted around Broussa, where roses grew in abundance, but upon distillation these roses produced practically none of the attar.

In Bulgaria but two varieties of roses are cultivated, the red, "Rosa Damascena," and the white, "Rosa Alba," which are combined in the process of distillation; but the red rose, which resembles the French "Rose du Roi," is richer in perfume and essence than the white. In the Rose Valley, where there are some 20,000 acres of gardens, the atmosphere of the entire district is charged with perfume when the roses are in bloom.

The Cultivation and Harvesting of the Rose.

The planting of a rose garden is much like that of a vineyard. The soil is prepared by careful tilling and fertilizing, ditches being dug in rows a foot and a half in depth and width, and a yard and a half apart. The shoots are planted in the bottoms of these ditches in a mixture of soft earth and manure, and within a year the bushes are about a foot high.

The first crop of consequence comes with the third year—the bushes attain their full growth, about 6 feet, in the fifth year and continue to yield abundantly for 20 years. There is but one crop a year, the harvest beginning about the third week in May and lasting 18 to 30 days, the duration depending on weather conditions. In hot summers the harvesting proceeds rapidly, the plants completely flowering in 14 to 20 days.

The roses, gathered by women and girls, are carried to the near-by distillery, spread out in cool, cemented chambers, and distilled the same day. The gathering continues from daybreak until 10 or 11 o'clock, or, if the day is cloudy, for an hour or two longer—roses gathered in a hot sun have a comparatively feeble odor and yield but little essence. In times of rapid harvests the flowers are often so plentiful that they overtax the capacity of the stills and have to be thrown away.

Attar Obtained by Double Distillation.

The alembic, or still, is usually of the simplest construction; a convex, tinned copper boiler, narrowed at the top to a neck on which is affixed a spherical head. It is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, the diameter at the widest part being about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet. From the head a straight tube

inclines to a worm condenser placed in a tub of running water. The average capacity of the still is 20 gallons, 20 pounds of roses and 15 gallons of water being used. This first distillation, which is completed in about 45 minutes, yields 30 to 35 pounds of rose water, which is redistilled—100 to 120 pounds producing some 30 pounds of the second distillate—to get the concentrated extract. The extract is strong in odor and has a turbid appearance from the presence of minute yellow-white globules—the attar—which, being lighter than the liquid, gradually rise to the surface and are carefully skimmed off.

Production and Export—Adulteration.

About 20,000 acres are devoted to rose culture in Bulgaria, the annual harvest yielding 35,000,000 to 45,000,000 pounds, or about 8,000,000,000 roses. A 1-acre garden under favorable conditions produces 2,000 to 2,500 pounds of roses, from which 10 to 15 ounces of attar of rose may be distilled. Generally 180 to 200 pounds of roses will produce 1 ounce of the attar; there are about 200 roses to the pound. The total production of the attar varies with the seasons, but it averages 175,000 ounces.

The largest rose crops on record were those of 1900, 1903, and 1906, which resulted in 180,000 ounces, 210,000 ounces, and 225,000 ounces of attar, respectively. The 1916 production is small in comparison, not more than 110,000 ounces being distilled.

Nearly all the attar of rose produced in Bulgaria is exported, the largest markets being Paris, London, and New York. The export in 1900 amounted to 180,000 ounces; in 1905, to 210,000 ounces; and in 1910, to 216,000 ounces. The average price, prior to the war, was \$12 per ounce.

At one time during the Turkish régime the rose leaves were sprinkled with geranium oil, which produced a heavy yield of attar upon distillation; but this practice has long since been discontinued, as the attar obtained partook more of the perfume of the geranium than of the rose.

The rose crop of Bulgaria is subject to damage from hailstorms, excessive cold, an early and deceptive spring frost during the budding season, and hot, dry weather in the harvest time. In the last two lies the greatest danger.

AMERICAN FILMS POPULAR IN COSTA RICA.

[Vice Consul Albert B. Pullen, Port Limon, Oct. 11.]

"Teatro Arrasty" is the only motion-picture theater in the Port Limon district. It seats 800 and charges an admission fee of 30 cents, the performance lasting two hours. The films usually shown are features of five or six reels, all types of pictures being in favor—dramatic, scenic, comic, etc. The theater rents its films from "Teatro Variedades" in San José, the rental charge ranging from \$4 to \$20 per film.

Although American films are the most popular, those from France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, and England are also shown. Among the American feature films recently seen here were "The Yellow Passport," "As in a Looking Glass," "Evidence," "The Mark of a Dollar," and "The Aventures of Kathleen." The duty on all films is 4.2 cents a pound.

JAPAN IN THE COTTON-SPINNING INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul E. H. Dooman, Kobe, Sept. 18.]

The profits of the spinning industry in Japan for the six months ended June 30, 1916, were most welcome after the comparatively lean half year preceding. During the latter part of 1915 the sales of cotton yarn had fallen off to such an extent that certain mills stopped running, and others dismissed large numbers of operatives. With the beginning of the new year conditions became favorable, and at present all the factories except two are in operation, with an average working day of 22 hours. The net profits of the larger companies for six months, compared with those for the corresponding period in 1915, were:

Companies.	January to June, 1915.	January to June, 1916.	Companies.	January to June, 1915.	January to June, 1916.
Kanegafuchi	\$958,362	\$1,278,595	Temma	\$118,591	\$96,603
Toyo	776,199	1,071,211	Kiyo	43,451	67,766
Fuji	900,343	1,134,318	Idzumi	58,330	68,717
Amagasaki	448,243	1,205,715	Sakai	58,601	53,186
Settsu	332,047	450,950	Hinode	29,753	35,377
Kishiwada	174,247	291,314	Ehime	23,307	38,388
Godo	207,496	229,606	Matsuyama	16,136	17,967
Wakayama	73,128	187,880	Mishima	9,236	11,631
Fukushima	149,800	156,922			
Nishin	128,342	209,953	Total	4,671,211	6,862,961
Naigai	165,599	230,260			

To Combat Sale of Indian Yarn in China.

Preparations made by the Cotton Spinners' Association to combat the sale of Indian yarn in China have aroused general interest. The Indian Government, in conjunction with the movement to encourage the growing of cotton within the British Empire, has urged experts to visit Japan and seek information concerning Japanese manufacturing and trade methods in China. Japanese steamship companies have raised the freight rates for cotton yarn between Bombay and Shanghai from 22 to 36 rupees per ton (rupee=32 cents), and between Bombay and Hongkong from 19 to 33 rupees. The new rates are in force from November 1, 1916.

At one time this year the price of cotton yarn in Japan was raised to such a level that merchants found it profitable to reimport Japanese yarn from Shanghai. An agreement has been made among the spinners to sell only through their associations, in order to steady prices and preclude speculation.

Increase in Investments—Condition of Industry.

The increase in capital has amounted to 23,843,750 yen (yen=\$0.4985). This was distributed as follows: Settsu, \$1,750,000; Meriyasu, \$300,000; Sakai, \$600,000; Kiyo, \$375,000; Oita, \$750,000; Fukushima, \$571,875; Osaka Orimono, \$800,000; Wakayama, \$650,000; Kurashiki, \$750,000; Toyo, \$5,375,000; total, \$11,921,875. In addition, the Godo Spinning Cos. issued debentures for 1,500,000 yen, the Naigai Spinning Co. for 1,000,000 yen, and the Idzumi Spinning Cos. for 600,000 yen, a total of 3,100,000 yen, or about \$1,550,000. The condition of the industry from January 1 to June 30, 1916, is shown by the following statistics:

Condition of industry.	Six months of 1915.	Six months of 1916.	Condition of industry.	Six months of 1915.	Six months of 1916.
Companies.....	42	39	Cotton consumed:		
Factories.....	159	160	British India,		
Total capital.....	\$54, 449, 360	\$54, 050, 560	pounds.....	269, 111, 574	295, 605, 614
Capital paid up.....	\$42, 477, 847	\$42, 912, 469	China.....do....	6, 967, 045	19, 069, 668
Reserve fund.....	\$18, 618, 406	\$19, 843, 843	Egypt.....do....	6, 448, 411	7, 825, 288
Spindles:			French Indo-China,		
Ring.....	2, 724, 452	2, 764, 588	pounds.....	1, 153, 029	4, 047, 719
Mule.....	48, 530	51, 450	Korea.....pounds..		4, 403, 870
Twisting.....	348, 739	365, 566	United States,do....	99, 528, 764	117, 668, 772
Looms.....	28, 387	30, 502	All other countries,		
Yarn produced:			pounds.....	2, 300, 055	2, 442, 591
Ring.....pounds..	335, 028, 551	396, 926, 581	Total..pounds..	385, 508, 878	451, 063, 322
Mule.....do....	1, 249, 801	2, 054, 756			

Remarkable Increase in Imports from Korea.

Imports of cotton from Korea have increased remarkably. Cotton has always been grown in that country, but the fiber is exceedingly short and is rather yellow. It is imported into Japan chiefly for wadding quilts and clothing. Experiments with seed imported from the United States have been made and met with unexpected success. The area under cultivation for American cotton in 1911 was 67,000 acres, with a yield of 3,649,400 pounds. These figures had increased in 1915 to 757,500 acres, yielding 38,224,495 pounds. During the current year it is expected the area will increase to about 1,200,000 acres, with a yield of 60,000,000 pounds, or about one-fourth of the quantity of cotton annually imported into Japan from the United States.

The quantity and value of the imports of cotton into Japan by countries for the first six months of 1915 and 1916 were:

Countries.	1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
British India.....	384, 708, 667	\$40, 414, 718	416, 119, 067	\$49, 252, 406
United States.....	127, 576, 267	17, 131, 151	159, 870, 267	20, 678, 307
China.....	26, 941, 200	2, 594, 813	26, 863, 867	2, 587, 910
French Indo-China.....	1, 846, 683	63, 239	8, 051, 533	570, 280
Egypt.....	10, 358, 400	2, 069, 377	16, 373, 333	3, 446, 423
Korea.....	2, 075, 200	192, 745	6, 423, 000	646, 115
Dutch India.....	760, 667	18, 275	2, 354, 933	77, 210
Kwangtung Province.....			117, 067	10, 950
Siam.....	524, 533	17, 387	1, 142, 400	40, 239
Straits Settlements.....	187, 342	5, 514	4, 138, 333	126, 261
All other countries.....		6		
Total.....	554, 978, 809	62, 527, 225	641, 454, 400	77, 436, 130

Exports of yarn from Japan during the first six months of this year, with the countries to which they were sent, were as follows: British India, 1,883,933 pounds, valued at \$572,027; China, 96,110,807 pounds, valued at \$16,011,366; Hongkong, 10,252,465 pounds, valued at \$1,835,466; Korea, 5,401,860 pounds, valued at \$783,285; Kwangtung Province, 3,286,063 pounds, valued at \$514,727; Philippine Islands, 299,760 pounds, valued at \$89,384; all other countries, 352,941 pounds, valued at \$76,291; total, 117,587,829 pounds, valued at \$19,852,546; yarn, from No. 1 to No. 20, 98,995,155 pounds, valued at \$14,912,776; No. 21 and over, 18,592,674 pounds, valued at \$4,969,770.

PHEASANT FARMS IN SOUTH CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong.]

Laws of the United States against the importation into American territory of the skins, feathers, or other parts of wild birds give promise of leading to an increase in the number of pheasant farms in South China, although the raising of domesticated pheasants already is upon a very large scale, particularly in certain districts near Yunnanfu, Yunnan Province. Direct shipments to the United States are on the increase, and inquiries indicate that when the origin and nature of the products are better understood there the trade with America will increase even more rapidly.

At present the pheasant feathers and skins reaching Hongkong come almost entirely from the farms near Yunnanfu. There are 12 of these farms of some moment, one of them raising well toward 200,000 birds a year, while the total output is estimated to be in excess of 300,000 and may be much larger. The farming includes both the Golden and the Silver pheasants. The Golden are the more common birds, but there is comparatively little difference in the demand for either of the two varieties.

The birds are raised much as are ordinary fowls, the eggs being hatched in Chinese incubators and the chicks handled in native-made brooders on the larger farms, though the rule on the smaller farms seems to be to rely upon the hens for hatching. The birds are usually worth at Yunnanfu from \$1 to \$1.20 silver currency (from \$0.40 to \$0.50 gold) each. Of this value about half represents the value of the skins and feathers for export and the rest the value of the meat of the birds. Most of the birds are killed about the Chinese New Year and are used for food during the festival season, though there is a good demand for them at all times.

Europe the Chief Market.

There is practically no distinction made in the price of the male and female birds as a rule. Before the war the business of shipping the feathers of these birds out of Yunnan to Hongkong and thence to Europe was largely in the control of German firms. Since the war the business has been taken up mostly by French and Danish firms. The immensely larger portion of the output of the farms goes to Europe, Marseille still being the chief center of the trade in Europe, the understanding being that many of the birds are there prepared for reexport to the United States and particularly South America. The skins and feathers are seldom used locally by the Chinese, a few being employed now and then in Chinese theatrical costumes, but seldom if ever as a normal portion of Chinese dress.

The skins are cured simply by immersing in a solution of carbolic acid for disinfection, by treatment with an alum preparation, and steaming and then drying. They come to Hongkong usually in small bales protected by matting, but the more valuable feathers and skins are separately wrapped in paper and packed in cases. They are usually exported from Hongkong in cases.

[A list of Hongkong firms handling pheasant feathers and skins may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon request; to file No. 81520.]

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

OCTOBER.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	15,526	17,846	6,752	.....	22,278	17,846
Grain.....bushels..	5,841,877	3,556,538	3,848,973	3,294,414	9,690,850	6,860,952
Flour.....barrels..	934,330	1,097,540	638,630	570,710	1,572,960	1,668,250
Iron ore.....short tons..	5,470,808	7,629,311	1,405,762	1,289,267	6,876,570	8,918,578
Pig iron.....do.....	6,656	5,136	2,070	.....	8,726	5,136
Lumber.....M feet..	58,568	49,787	4,716	1,387	63,284	51,174
Wheat.....bushels..	47,783,522	8,968,948	17,603,834	9,475,885	65,387,356	18,444,833
General merchandise.....short tons..	40,259	56,468	16,207	2,541	56,466	59,009
Passengers.....number..	85	40	452	479	537	519
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	260,188	272,350	.....	7,000	260,188	279,350
Soft.....do.....	1,537,690	1,383,467	105,693	74,250	1,643,283	1,457,717
Flour.....barrels..	.....	91	.....	.....	.....	91
Grain.....bushels..	.....	1,985	373	.....	373	1,985
Manufactured iron.....short tons..	19,652	14,659	4,726	2,626	24,378	17,285
Iron ore.....do.....	1,600	.....	.....	.....	1,600	.....
Salt.....barrels..	113,676	107,128	8,540	3,500	122,416	110,628
General merchandise.....short tons..	163,906	143,533	46,853	50,854	210,758	194,387
Passengers.....number..	59	13	313	311	372	324
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	7,292,000	8,255,660	2,107,436	1,698,004	9,393,436	9,953,664
Westbound.....do.....	1,599,917	1,830,118	158,498	135,230	2,158,415	1,966,348
Total.....do.....	9,231,917	10,085,778	2,265,934	1,833,234	11,587,851	11,919,012
Vessel passages.....number..	2,421	2,479	810	774	3,231	3,253
Registered tonnage.....net..	7,306,369	7,915,223	1,977,601	1,480,741	9,283,260	9,396,964

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	99,813	97,033	17,838	3,882	117,651	101,515
Grain.....bushels..	21,024,831	33,521,235	14,170,372	34,658,203	35,195,203	68,179,438
Flour.....barrels..	4,512,449	5,405,668	2,151,618	2,796,471	6,664,067	8,202,139
Iron ore.....short tons..	37,388,670	45,648,245	3,249,652	10,640,683	40,638,322	56,288,928
Pig iron.....do.....	8,870	35,032	6,770	.....	15,640	35,032
Lumber.....M feet..	377,387	290,490	38,965	12,083	416,352	302,573
Wheat.....bushels..	93,800,092	102,254,129	38,125,990	72,926,588	131,926,082	175,180,717
General merchandise.....short tons..	158,561	228,033	109,276	52,960	267,837	280,993
Passengers.....number..	12,813	12,085	12,934	15,610	25,747	27,645
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	1,670,289	1,808,021	38,633	80,810	1,708,922	1,888,831
Soft.....do.....	9,381,288	11,660,484	368,068	827,411	9,749,346	12,487,896
Flour.....barrels..	100	361	.....	12,960	100	13,321
Grain.....bushels..	31,250	6,695	373	.....	31,623	6,695
Manufactured iron.....short tons..	140,627	118,285	17,888	15,441	158,515	133,726
Iron ore.....do.....	1,500	14,479	.....	14,448	1,500	28,927
Salt.....barrels..	576,776	637,330	26,810	45,787	603,586	683,117
General merchandise.....short tons..	855,644	844,675	237,489	267,585	1,093,133	1,132,260
Passengers.....number..	12,534	11,235	11,797	15,473	24,331	26,708
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	42,043,977	50,773,287	5,095,197	13,826,001	47,139,174	64,599,288
Westbound.....do.....	12,136,376	14,641,689	665,904	1,233,532	12,802,280	15,775,221
Total.....do.....	54,180,353	65,414,976	5,761,101	15,059,533	59,941,454	80,374,509
Vessel passages.....number..	14,560	16,261	3,578	5,837	15,138	22,098
Registered tonnage.....net..	41,009,237	49,631,390	6,853,021	11,465,844	47,802,258	61,097,204

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gerhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Waddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

CHANGES IN WIRELESS SERVICE.

Military engineers are erecting a wireless station on Cape Juby, on the African coast, and expect to have it in operation before October 1. The service will be available for ships in distress. As the big installation on Teneriffe Island is less than 100 miles from the Cape Juby plant, communication with the Canary Islands will be possible and, through them, with the Spanish mainland. A regular steamship service to Cape Juby, with sailings from Santa Cruz de Teneriffe on the 28th of each month, has been announced.

The United States Bureau of Navigation has been informed that the following land stations in Alaska have been closed for the season, and will not be reopened until March, 1917: Akutan (KNW), Chignik (KHC), Egegak (KMF), Hales Creek (KMT), Koggiung (KVV), Koggiung (KHB), Naknek (KHT), Naknek (KMK), Nushagak (KMG), and Snag Point (KHF).

It is reported that the two Marconi outfits purchased by the Colombian Government some time ago will be delivered soon. It is intended to establish these two stations at Arauca and Orocué. The former is situated on the Arauca River where it forms the boundary between Colombia and Venezuela, and the latter is on the Meta River 200 miles east of Bogota.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3787.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 24, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, cold-rolled steel, manganese-steel bushings, rivets, bolts, cast-iron pipe, pipe fittings, cocks, valves, vitrified sewer pipe, drain tile, saw machine, portable blower, crane ladle, hydraulic gauge, snatch blocks, hawsing irons, hames, rattan baskets, rubber valves, gaskets, electric cable and wire, electric fixtures, bell transformers, watt-hour meters, electrical fittings, slate, red fiber, toweling, rubber bands, erasers, paper clips, thumb tacks, pencils, paper, dipper-stick timbers, and creosoted piles. (Circular No. 1097.)

Radio station, No. 3788.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 4, 1916, for two wooden frame buildings, with wood-shingle roofs, concrete piers, and plumbing and electric lighting systems; two guyed steel-pipe masts and one self-supporting steel tower, with concrete foundations and wooden piles, at the distant control naval radio station, Charleston, S. C. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the naval station named.

Planting of trees and shrubs, etc., No. 3789.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 5, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal building at Steelton, Pa., in accordance with specifications, copies of which may be had upon application to the custodian of the building or at the above-named office.

Medical supplies, No. 3790.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1916, for furnishing mailing cases, scrubbing brushes, spit cups, porcelain mortars and pestles, medicine glasses, steel tapes, etc.

Tree planting, etc., No. 3791.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 5, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal Building at Plymouth, Mass., in accordance with drawing T-1 and specification, copies of which may be had on application to the custodian of the building or at the above-named office.

Painting of roof, No. 3792.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the chief clerk, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until November 14, 1916, for painting the roof of the Pension Office Building. Copies of proposals and specifications may be obtained at room 118, Patent Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Planting trees, shrubs, etc., No. 3793.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 5, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal buildings at Faribault, Minn., in accordance with the specifications, copies of which, as well as copies of approach plan, may be had upon application to the custodian or at the above-named office.

Planting of trees and shrubs, etc., No. 3794.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 5, 1916, for planting trees, shrubs, etc., on the grounds of the Federal building at Ennis, Tex., in accordance with specification, copies of which, as well as copies of approach plan, may be had upon application to the custodian of the building or at the above office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency, general.....	22955	Hardware.....	22956
Boot and shoe polish.....	22956	Heating apparatus.....	22951
Chemicals.....	22957	Machinery, cotton seed.....	22959
Clothing.....	22961	Medicines, patent.....	22956
Copper sulphate.....	22960	Oils, essential.....	22956
Cotton sheeting and yarns.....	22952	Paper boxes.....	22963
Crockery.....	22953	Petroleum jelly.....	22958
Cutlery.....	22953	Plumbing supplies.....	22961
Drugs.....	22962	Soaps and perfumes.....	22956
Footwear.....	22961	Sirups.....	22956
Fretwoods.....	22954	Thread.....	22956
Hair oils.....	22956		

22951.†—A man in France wishes to represent American manufacturers of heating apparatus and appliances and plumbing supplies. Correspondence may be in English.

22952.*—An established manufacturers' agent in Colombia desires to secure agencies for cotton yarns in skeins and cones, white and colored, and white and gray sheetings. Reference. Correspondence in English.

22953.*—A firm in Canada desires to communicate with American manufacturers of crockery.

22954.*—A firm in Australia wishes to receive direct quotations on fretwoods, first quality, cut and dressed both sides and sandpapered smooth, in thicknesses from one-sixteenth of an inch up to one-half inch, in satin walnut, dark walnut, white chestnut, holly, and white maple.

22955.*—An advertising and commission firm in Spain wishes to act as representative for the sale on a commission basis of all kinds of American merchandise. Correspondence may be in English. References.

22956.*—A wholesale firm in East Africa wishes to receive catalogues with prices and discounts given on medium and cheap grades of cutlery, boot and shoe polish, hair oils, essential oils, patent medicines, soaps and perfumes, sirups, small hardware, and spool thread of both cotton and silk.

22957.*—A commission broker in the United Kingdom desires to get into touch with American manufacturers of caustic soda, caustic potash, and carbonate of potash, used in the manufacture of soap.

22958.*—A firm in Central America is in the market for petroleum jelly. Quotations desired on barrel lots, c. i. f. steamer, New York. Samples are desired. Correspondence in English. References.

22959.*—A firm of engineers and importers in South Africa desires to receive proposals for the installation of machinery and equipment for the manufacture of cottonseed oil and cake. Contemplated plant to handle from 5 to 10 tons of seeds a day.

22960.*—A firm in France is desirous of communicating with firms in the United States in a position to supply large quantities of copper sulphate. Correspondence should be in French.

22961.*—Catalogues and prices, etc., on footwear and clothing for women and children are desired in Russia. Quotations in Russian currency. Correspondence in Russian, if possible. Weights and measurements in the Russian system.

22962.*—A firm in Spain wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of drugs. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

22963.*—A firm in Canada is desirous of communicating with American manufacturers of cardboard boxes.

PRINCETON N

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 266 Washington, D. C., Saturday, November 11 1916

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EMBARGO ON COFFEE SUBSTITUTES IN NORWAY.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Deanson, Christiania, Oct. 12.]

The Norwegian Government under date of September 30, 1916, prohibited the exportation of coffee substitutes until further notice.

ADDITIONS TO SWISS EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Zurich, Oct. 29.]

The following have been included in the Swiss list of prohibited exports: Silk waste, floss silk, combed, raw silk, untwisted, and artificial silk and wastes thereof.

SPAIN REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN BIDS.

[Consul Ely E. Palmer, Madrid, Oct. 6; supplementing cablegram in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 9, 1916.]

Because of "poor quality and imperfection of the national production," a royal decree of September 27 removes the restrictions on foreign bids for Government purchases of the following articles:

- Gas motors of more than 30 horsepower.
- Gas generators for gas motors of more than 50 horsepower per unit.
- Electric dynamos of all classes, from 50 horsepower.
- Electric motors of all classes, from 50 horsepower, normal load.
- Transformers of all classes of more than 200 kilowatts potential, normal load, or working tension above 10,000 volts.
- Malleable steel or wrought iron of all classes and weights, whether or not galvanized.
- Rails weighing over 20 kilos per linear meter [13.44 pounds per foot].
- Malleable sheet steel of all dimensions and weights, whether galvanized or not.

In this consulate's cablegram "aceros dulces ó hierros perfilados" was transmitted, after consultation with a local dealer in iron and steel, as "soft steel and iron forms," but it is believed the term "malleable steel and wrought iron" used above is more satisfactory.

BIG INCREASE IN DOMINICAN EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Zielinski, Santo Domingo, Oct. 20.]

The declared value of the merchandise invoiced at the Santo Domingo consulate general for shipment to the United States during the quarter ended September 30 last, exclusive of returned American goods and exports to Porto Rico, was twelve times that for the corresponding quarter of 1915, as the following table shows:

Articles.	September quarter—		Articles.	September quarter—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
Beeswax	\$10,358	\$13,026	Metals: Copper, old		\$1,528
Cacao	31,426	40,500	Molasses		7,562
Coffee	3,308	6,071	Sugar		608,534
Copper ore		1,261	All other	\$1,010	840
Hides and skins:					
Cow hides	11,114	11,059	Total	62,802	765,769
Goat skins	5,591	12,563	Returned American goods	2,013	5,506
Logwood		62,825	Exports to Porto Rico	13,531	10,677

While there were important increases over the September, 1915, quarter in all the leading articles, sugar and logwood account for \$671,359 of the total gain. With regard to sugar, in 1915 the entire crop was exported before July 1, whereas this year a scarcity of labor extended the grinding season in some cases until the middle of July. In addition, installation of new machinery and extension of the area under cultivation, together with the output of a new sugar estate, brought the exports to an unexpected level. The logwood shipments reflect the demand for dyestuffs in the United States [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Mar. 30 and Apr. 26, 1916]. Freight rates, which, at the beginning of the quarter were \$18 a ton to New York, were lowered to \$12 about two months ago, and this also helped considerably to increase exportation.

RUSSIAN BUDGET FOR 1917.

[L'Économiste Européen, Oct. 20.]

The Russian Minister of Finance has just presented the following figures for the budget estimates in 1917: Ordinary receipts, 3,999,000,000 rubles (the normal exchange value of the ruble is \$0.515; the current quotation is about \$0.31); extraordinary receipts, 79,000,000 rubles; total receipts, 4,078,000,000 rubles; ordinary expenditures, 3,734,000,000 rubles; extraordinary expenditures, 343,000,000 rubles; total expenditures, 4,077,000,000 rubles. The ordinary receipts exceed by 967,000,000 rubles those of 1916. An increase so considerable in the revenue of the Empire must be explained by the introduction in 1916 of a series of new imposts, by the increased receipts of railroad lines, and finally by the very satisfactory returns from existing taxes. On the other hand, the increase in ordinary expenditures is due in part to the large sums necessary for the operation of the railroads. The increase in extraordinary expenses is caused by the projected construction of new railroad lines.

CHINA OFFERS MARKET FOR AMERICAN METALS.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 19.]

After a series of fluctuations which at times had an element of danger to American shippers, the general metal market in Hongkong has reached what is generally considered a fair level, and there is a prospect of good business in the field of south China for nearly all lines of such goods from the United States. Steel bars, which were quoted at \$190 to \$270 Hongkong currency per ton in March, 1916, fell to \$150 in April, but now are quoted at about \$190. Wire nails which, for the 1-inch to 3-inch sizes that are in common demand, were as high as \$21 in March and fell to \$12 in April, have risen to \$14 per keg, higher prices being unobtainable on account of an overstocked market. At the present prices the dealers are losing nothing, although for a time it looked as if their losses would be heavy. Moderate business in tin plates was reported during the past week at \$14 to \$14.50 per box, compared with \$11.20 to \$12.50 per box some weeks ago.

Recovery Uniform All Along Metal Line.

The recovery has been in about the same proportion all along the metal line. The state of the market is of particular importance to American exporters, since little metal of any sort is now coming from Europe. Lead has advanced about 20 per cent in the past three months and is now quoted at \$27 to \$28 per picul of 133½ pounds. All the quotations given are in Hongkong currency. The Hongkong dollar varied during the time mentioned from 50 to 54 cents gold in value.

The present importance of Hongkong as a metal market arises not only from its normal trade, which probably reaches a value of \$7,000,000 gold annually in normal times, but also from the fact that much, if not most, of the demand for metals in the Malay States and the East Indies at present must be handled through Hongkong—by transmission if not by original purchase.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF STOCK RAISING IN PERU.

El Boletín de Ciencias, Artes e Industrias of Lima, has issued a pamphlet for the use of stock raisers in Peru. This publication contains the Peruvian regulations for the importation of live stock, and for the registration and marking of both native and imported stock, as well as instructions for the treatment of common ailments in animals. The microbiological institute of the Government School of Agriculture investigates the diseases of stock, makes free diagnoses, prepares vaccines, and issues the certificates of immunity required for the entry of live stock from other countries. In addition to the services offered to stock raisers by the Government through this institute and through the Live Stock Section of the Department of Fomento, there is an independent Association of Stock Raisers of Peru (Sociedad de Ganaderos del Peru), which is officially recognized by the Department of Fomento, and which co-operates with the Government in the promotion of the national live-stock industry.

HOP PRODUCTION IN WURTTENBERG.

[Consul George Nicolas Ifft, Stuttgart, Germany, Oct. 10.]

Wurttemberg is one of the minor hop districts of Germany, producing a small quantity of only average quality. The hop-garden area for 1916 comprises 4,851 acres, and the crop is officially estimated at 26,041 hundredweight, or just $2\frac{1}{2}$ hundredweight more than the 1915 crop, but only about one-third of the excellent hop crop of 1914, which was 75,190 hundredweight. The average crop for the 10 years from 1904 to 1913 was 63,356 hundredweight.

Official statistics show that this year there were 104 districts in the Kingdom in which at least $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres were planted to hops, the total acreage for these communities being 4,833, an increase of $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres as compared with that of 1915 and of 25 acres as compared with that of 1914. In 1915 there were 123 "hop districts," with a total acreage of 6,079 in the Kingdom, so that this year shows a notable decrease in the area planted. The official figure of this year's crop in the 104 districts is 23,455 hundredweight, or 4.8 hundredweight per acre. The average crop for 1915 was 3.9 hundredweight per acre, and for 1914 it was 9.2. The average crop for the 10 years from 1904 to 1913 was 6 hundredweight per acre. This year's crop thus is not up to the average.

The total crop for this year is estimated by taking the average of 4.8 hundredweight per acre in the "hop districts" as the probable product of the 539 acres planted to hops in other parts of the Kingdom, but in districts where the total hop-garden areas were less than $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

LOWERING CUSTOMS CHARGES ON MOTION-PICTURE FILMS.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Oct. 4.]

The American Consul general at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has called attention to a saving on customs duties now being made by some American film companies sending films to Brazil through a change in the type of packing used, a heavy oiled or tarred paper being substituted for the tin case ordinarily employed as the immediate container for American films.

A similar saving could be made on the duties on films imported into Chile. The duty on developed cinematograph films is 6 pesos gold per kilo "legal" (inclusive of wrappings or of weight of immediate container), equal to \$0.993 United States currency per pound. As the tin container for a film will weigh approximately a pound, the saving on duty by substituting for it a wrapping of heavy oiled or tarred paper would be approximately \$1 for each film. There would be no objection to having the box or case in which a number of films are shipped lead or zinc-lined, and no additional duties would be incurred, provided the lead or zinc lining were fastened to the outer box or case in such a manner as to make it part of that case.

The duty on posters and advertising matter in general is 1 peso gold per kilo gross weight, equal to \$0.165 United States currency per pound. It is improbable that in a country presenting so small a market for films as Chile posters and advertising matter could be printed locally with any appreciable economy.

CONCESSION FOR RAILWAY IN STATE OF MATTO GROSSO.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 30.]

The President of Brazil, by decree No. 12185, of August 30, 1916, has granted a concession to Alberto Alvares de Azevedo de Castro for the construction and operation of a railway from Cuyabá, the capital of the State of Matto Grosso, through the town of Sant' Anna, on the Paranahyba River, to connect with the Araraquara Railway at a place called Jangada, or at São José do Rio Preto. This total extension will be about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) in length, and will furnish direct railway communication between the city of Cuyabá and the ports of Rio and Santos.

According to the concession, the Government cedes such lands belonging to the Union as are indispensable for the construction of the road and its dependencies, and grants the right of expropriation of those lands of private ownership necessary for the roadbed, stations, warehouses, etc. It also grants to the concessionaire the use of waterfalls and watercourses for the production of electric power for traction and other services of the railway in case the road be electrified. During the period of the concession (60 years) the Government will not authorize the construction of any other railway within a zone of 20 kilometers (12 miles) on each side of the center of the roadbed, but will permit the laying of branch lines for private use.

Plans for the first section, 100 kilometers (62 miles), must be submitted to the Government before June 30, 1919, and construction work must be begun within one year from the date of approval of these plans by the Government. Construction must be carried on at the rate of 50 kilometers (31 miles) per year. The concession calls for a single line of meter (3.28-foot) gauge.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended November 4, 1916:

Damping of Waves and Other Disturbances in Mercury (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 289).—Describes effective means for obviating or reducing oscillations and other disturbances in a mass of mercury. Price, 5 cents.

Wheatstone Bridges and Some Accessory Apparatus for Resistance Thermometry (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 288).—Describes a type of Wheatstone bridge in which plugs or dial switches are used and the circuits so arranged that the errors due to contact resistance are no greater than with the mercury contact-bridges heretofore used. Price, 10 cents.

Peruvian Markets for American Hardware (Foreign and Domestic Commerce Miscellaneous Series 39).—Official statistics showing what articles of hardware were imported by Peru from the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France, and Belgium in 1913 and 1914, with practical suggestions to American manufacturers looking toward the expansion of their trade. Price, 10 cents.

Pacific Cod Fisheries (Fisheries Bureau Doc. 830).—Illustrated, descriptive, and tabulated data giving the complete history of the cod-fishing industry on the Pacific coast, with maps showing the location of the cod banks in Bristol Bay and Central Alaska. Price, 25 cents.

Markets for American Hardware in Chile and Bolivia (Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau, Miscellaneous Series 41).—Field survey by United States commercial experts of the Chilean market, giving detailed information for practically all the important articles included under the term "hardware," for which there is a promising field for American manufacturers. Price, 25 cents.

SMALL SALE FOR FOREIGN SOFT DRINKS IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires.]

The demand for foreign ginger ale in Argentina is very limited. During the five years from 1910 to 1914 the total imports aggregated 68,571 dozen bottles, valued at \$132,342 United States currency, of which amount England supplied 67,518 dozen bottles valued at \$130,310. During this same period only 10 dozen bottles were received from the United States. In 1915 Argentina's imports of ginger ale amounted to 5,891 dozen, valued at \$11,367, but the countries of origin are not shown in the official statistics available.

The bulk of the ginger ale coming from Great Britain consists of two well-known brands that have been on this market for many years past and are extensively advertised and kept constantly before the public. These are sold in $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1 liter bottles, the latter size retailing here at approximately \$2.50 per dozen bottles. (The liter is equivalent to 1.057 American quarts.) The import duty on ginger ale is 0.50 peso Argentine gold (\$0.4824) per dozen bottles, plus an additional tax of 2 per cent and 2 per mille on a valuation of 2 pesos (\$1.93) per dozen fixed by the customhouse.

There is also an important domestic production of ginger ale, which has a large demand and sells at considerably less than imported ginger ale.

To introduce and create a demand for a new kind of beverage in this market will necessitate a great deal of persistent advertising in order to keep the name of the brand constantly before the public. The cost of such advertising must be borne by the manufacturer, as no firm here will undertake to represent manufacturers or shippers of beverages who will not provide a certain sum for publicity work.

[A list of Buenos Aires firms that might be interested in representing American shippers of table waters, ginger ale, etc., may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80810.]

SPANISH WINE EXPORTS.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 22.]

The Spanish wine trade is now showing a decided upward tendency, after several years of constant decline because of diminished exports. As the production is far in excess of domestic consumption, the sale of Spanish wines abroad was of primary importance; but exports have fallen from \$16,000,000 in 1913 to barely \$15,000,000 in 1914 and \$11,000,000 in 1915. In view of the increased expense of local grape culture, the smaller demand from foreign markets was doubly felt. Lately, however, the situation has changed, and export figures for the first seven months of 1916 are much more favorable.

The value of exports of ordinary red wine in casks and wine cars, amounting during the first seven months of 1914 to \$7,043,220 and \$3,089,543 during the corresponding period of 1915, in 1916 jumped to \$9,352,440. To France, which is Spain's chief wine market, exports of this red wine are over five times as great this year as last. The value of common white wine exported has risen from \$1,522,440 during the period in question in 1914 and \$412,740 in 1915 to \$1,807,200 in 1916. "Amontillados" and "olorosos" of sherry in casks and wine cars, exported to the value of \$565,560 during the

first seven months of 1914 and, falling to \$339,480 in 1915, rose to \$793,260 in 1916, France alone having imported about \$200,000 worth more than last year.

Value of Exports of Sherry and Cordials.

Other classes of sherry wines in bulk, the export of which amounted to \$389,700 during the first seven months of 1914 and to \$292,500 in 1915, were shipped to the value of \$609,300 in 1916. Malaga wines in bulk fell from \$1,361,340 in 1914 to \$1,262,160 in 1915 and rose to \$1,725,840 in 1916. England is Spain's chief market for sherry wines, and the export to that country in 1916 is almost double in value that of last year for the same months, while the value of Malaga shipped to England likewise shows an increase comprred with the year previous.

The export of cordials amounted during the first seven months of 1914 to \$383,940, dropped to \$251,460 in 1915, and increased to \$1,491,840 in 1916, while an exceptional advance is noticeable in the value of the export of spirits of wine, which rapidly grew from \$2,840 in 1914 to \$12,060 in 1915 and \$1,022,400 in 1916.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Ziehlinski, Santo Domingo, Oct. 25.]

The construction of public highways is probably the most important work now needed to develop the Dominican Republic. There are still very few roads leading into the interior, and it is impossible to take full advantage of the resources.

As a result of the American-Dominican convention of 1907 a considerable amount was made available for wharves, bridges, roads, and other public improvements. The public works department is administered by an American. The director general of this department constructs all works voted for by the Dominican Government and approved by the United States Government, under the direction of the minister of Fomento, who is a member of the Dominican President's Cabinet.

Types of Roads That Have Been Built.

Two general types of roads have been built in this country. One is of water-bound macadam with crusher-dust filler, 5 meters (16.4 feet) wide and 30 centimeters (0.98 feet) deep, laid and rolled in two layers. The other is of water-bound gravel of the same general dimensions. The cost of the water-bound macadam, not including the formation of the roadbed, has varied from \$2 to \$3 per cubic meter, measured loose, in place and rolled.

The stone that can be obtained is soft and of very poor quality. The price ranges from \$1 to \$1.50 delivered and crushed ready for use. The price of sand delivered is about the same.

Unskilled labor may be obtained at 50 cents to \$1 per day of 10 hours. The majority of the laborers come from Haiti.

Mr. W. I. Baucus, of San Pedro de Macoris, engineer in charge, is probably the only engineer of the department who has had any experience with Portland-cement concrete construction for roads and pavements.

[A statement regarding the organization of the public-works department of the Dominican Republic was published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Aug. 19, 1914.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	226 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	...do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Waddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

PACKING OF PARCELS FOR SHIPMENT OVERSEAS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Oct. 30.]

The Canadian Post Office Department has made the following suggestions as to the packing of parcels for overseas shipment:

Ordinary brown-paper wrapping and ordinary cardboard boxes, such as shoe boxes, are not sufficient, nor should thin wooden boxes be used. Strong double cardboard or strawboard boxes are recommended, especially those of corrugated cardboard with lids which completely close the sides also. Strong wooden boxes, tin boxes such as are used for packing biscuits, and several folds of stout wrapping paper suffice, according to the size and nature of the goods. Whatever the wrapping, the package must be so made as not to permit the contents to shake about inside.

While the suggestions of the Canadian Post Office Department are intended to apply especially to parcels for shipment abroad, they are applicable as well to packages transmitted between points in this continent. A package received at this consulate from an American firm a few weeks ago contained a toilet article put up in a metal tube but wrapped in corrugated cardboard only on the sides and then covered with a light paper wrapper. Having no protection at the ends, the tube when received was broken at the bottom, and the contents were partly spilled.

Ecuadorian City to Have Fire Protection.

Vice Consul James H. Roth, of Guayaquil, Ecuador, reports that by a decree of September 30 the city of Babahoyo (capital of the Province of Los Rios and 40 miles northeast of Guayaquil) is authorized to install a system of fire hydrants. The municipality is further authorized to negotiate a loan for carrying out this work, to be guaranteed by certain municipal and provincial taxes.

VELVETEENS AND OTHER FABRICS IN SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 9.]

The Swiss wholesale trade in velveteens and corduroys for women's wear, astrachans, plushes, mohairs, etc., is to be found at Zurich and Basel, and Berne buys largely in those markets. Direct imports from Germany, France, and Italy are made by only a few houses.

Velveteens seem to enjoy a ready sale here. They were largely imported from Germany, England, Austria, France, and Italy before the war. It is stated that Swiss wholesale and retail stocks in velveteens and kindred articles were considerable at the beginning of the war. This made it possible to meet the demand in 1914 and 1915, notwithstanding the reduced shipments from abroad.

Production of Goods in Switzerland.

Switzerland is a producer of these articles, especially in the eastern part of the country, where important mills make sufficient quantities to satisfy a good part of the needs of the country. Germany's competition was possible only on account of lower prices. Imports from England consist largely of high-class goods not manufactured here.

Switzerland's imports and exports of velveteen and kindred articles in 1915 were:

No. 371, velvet goods, in bolts, from cotton, raw, printed, colored, patterned, etc.

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Germany.....	143,520		1,763	\$1,142
Austria.....	15,432		220	341
France.....	16,976		8,398	6,977
Italy.....	8,377		3,306	6,620
England.....	100,310			
Other countries.....	220		4,188	7,290
Total 1915.....	284,834	\$319,270	17,575	22,370
Total 1914.....	260,145	252,500	16,093	22,620

The duty on these goods, according to the Swiss customs tariff, is \$1.93 per 220 pounds.

Exports and Imports of Various Classes.

Exports and imports of velveteen, corduroys, astrachan, plushes, mohairs, worsteds, etc., in 1914 and 1915 were as follows: Category VII.B, goods made from flax, hemp, ramie fiber, Manila hemp, and similar textiles, containing the following number of threads in a square of 5 millimeters to the side:

No. 405, less than 9 threads, made of jute: Imports in 1915, 937,182 pounds, valued at \$115,055; no exports; imports in 1914, 4,218,103 pounds, valued at \$369,288; exports, 17,857 pounds, valued at \$2,170. The duty on No. 405 is \$0.2895 per 220 pounds.

No. 406, less than 9 threads, made of other similar fibers: Imports in 1915, 7,274 pounds, valued at \$1,146; exports, 25,573 pounds,

valued at \$14,892; imports in 1914, 22,487 pounds, valued at \$3,150; exports, 17,636 pounds, valued at \$8,510. The duty of No. 406 is \$1.158.

No. 407, goods, named under category VII.B, containing 9 to 12 threads: Imports in 1915, 48,059 pounds, valued at \$18,933; exports, 1,100 pounds, valued at \$428; imports in 1914, 220,462 pounds, valued at \$77,200; exports, 660 pounds, valued at \$273. The duty on No. 407 is \$1.93.

No. 408, from 13 to 20 threads: Imports in 1915, 177,028 pounds, valued at \$85,238; exports, 33,287 pounds, valued at \$11,587; imports in 1914, 216,714 pounds, valued at \$94,860; exports, 10,141 pounds, valued at \$3,698. The duty on No. 408 is \$6,755.

No. 409, from 21 to 35 threads: Imports in 1915, 11,243 pounds, valued at \$7,382; exports, 1,102 pounds, valued at \$852; imports in 1914, 20,282 pounds, valued at \$12,430; exports, 220 pounds, valued at \$310. The duty on No. 409 is \$9.65.

No. 410, more than 35 threads: Imports in 1915, \$70; exports, \$772; imports in 1914, \$280; exports, \$868. The duty on No. 410 is \$10,615.

No. 411a, goods of class mentioned under category VII.B, boiled, soaked, creamed, and bleached: Imports in 1915, 232,585 pounds, valued at \$193,434; exports, 39,458 pounds, valued at \$70,268; imports in 1914, 382,721 pounds, valued at \$284,790; exports, 43,651 pounds, valued at \$48,250. The duty on No. 411a is the same as under Nos. 405-410 plus 30 per cent.

No. 411b, goods of class mentioned under category VII.B, impregnated: Imports in 1915, 12,786 pounds, valued at \$6,716; exports, 1,763 pounds, valued at \$1,030; imports in 1914, 85,759 pounds, valued at \$45,046; exports, 881 pounds, valued at \$195. The duty on No. 411b is the same as under Nos. 405-410 plus 10 per cent.

No. 412, goods of class mentioned under category VII. B, colored, printed: Imports in 1915, 25,793 pounds, valued at \$18,064; exports, 3,086 pounds, valued at \$2,938; imports in 1914, 108,026 pounds, valued at \$59,580; exports, 4,409 pounds, valued at \$3,534. The duty on No. 412 is the same as under Nos. 405-410 plus 25 per cent.

No. 413, goods of class mentioned under category VII. B, multi-colored, weaved: Imports in 1915, 9,919 pounds, valued at \$6,948; exports, 1,102 pounds, valued at \$629; imports in 1914, 63,493 pounds, valued at \$25,012; exports, 1,763 pounds, valued at \$1,282. The duty on No. 413 is the same as under Nos. 505-410 plus 25 per cent.

Efforts to Extend Sales of Corduroy.

Corduroys for women's wear are in the same class as velveteen. Early this year efforts were made to introduce this fabric for women's wear, but corduroys have not become as popular among the Swiss as expected. Dark colors are preferred, and local dry goods houses declare that American corduroys may succeed if the goods are properly introduced and compare favorably with the European article in quality and prices.

Astrachans, plushes, mohairs, etc., now come chiefly from England and Italy.

Swiss imports and exports under No. 447b, goods made of silk and half silk, for 1914 and 1915 were:

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Germany.....	291,881	\$1,042,443	101,853	\$585,041
Austria.....	13,880	34,323	302,253	1,706,422
France.....	241,846	1,236,772	170,417	945,665
Italy.....	37,920	155,400	28,220	196,152
Belgium.....	(a)	62	44,092	196,190
Holland.....	(a)	287	71,650	331,806
England.....	18,300	\$3,421	3,265,485	12,838,347
Sweden.....	220	1,198	122,797	612,366
Norway.....			22,046	122,720
Denmark.....	660	4,401	76,720	387,135
Portugal.....			25,573	130,528
Spain.....			23,810	140,225
Greece.....			15,211	74,252
Roumania.....	(a)	41	65,256	373,068
Turkey.....			15,432	78,132
Egypt.....	(a)	87	16,534	89,066
British India.....	220	100	13,227	38,061
Philippines.....			3,306	8,690
China.....	1,322	3,313	1,102	4,553
Japan.....	39,021	212,383	220	965
Canada.....	(a)	106	697,982	2,614,225
United States.....	660	902	121,033	639,672
Central America.....			5,291	28,101
Colombia.....			13,007	60,850
Brazil.....			11,243	45,366
Argentina.....			137,568	671,894
Chile.....			5,952	29,388
Rest of America.....			29,763	150,934
Australia.....			11,684	52,791
Others.....			32,543	147,753
Total for 1915.....	645,950	2,775,919	5,451,369	23,314,187
Total for 1914.....	471,127	2,045,238	4,750,961	21,009,787

* Quantity of half a quintal (110 pounds) has not been reached.

The duty on No. 447b is \$19.30.

Statistics for No. 476, goods made from wool, plushes, and krimmer, are: Imports in 1915, 160,273 pounds, valued at \$122,284; exports, 881 pounds, valued at \$865; imports in 1914, 247,357 pounds, valued at \$172,968; exports, 660 pounds, valued at \$780. The duty on No. 476 is \$7.72.

Use of Worsteds in Making Shoe Tops.

Worsteds as used in shoe tops are bought direct by the big shoe factories, of which there is only one in this consular district—Manufacture de Chaussure Minerva, Porrentruy, Switzerland. However, only a few shoes with cloth uppers are manufactured there. Its worsteds were bought from Pfenninger & Co., Wädenswil (Zürich), Switzerland. Switzerland itself manufactures nearly half of the quantity that it needs, and the rest has been imported usually from Germany, France, England, and Austria. The most important shoe factory, which is also one of the largest in Europe, is that of C. F. Bally (Ltd.), Schönenwerd (Solothurn), Switzerland.

German manufacturers have been able to get trade largely by means of their traveling staffs, which visit customers regularly. The French, English, and Italian exporters, on the other hand, sell through their Swiss agents. It is stated that local wholesale dealers probably would buy in the United States but for the fear that their

purchases would not arrive in a good state on account of the sea journey. It is feared also that controversies arising over defective goods would not be settled with the same dispatch as is now the case with European manufacturers, on account of the great distances involved and the absence from Europe of American traveling men who under ordinary conditions could be expected to handle such cases.

Effect of American Shipments in Cases.

Dealers also point out that European goods are packed in bales with jute, while American goods would have to be shipped in cases, increasing the cost and also the customs duty, as duty is paid on gross weight.

Goods are sold by the manufacturers on three months' credit, with 2 per cent discount. Small buyers are expected to pay cash.

About 12 shades are chiefly sold. These are brown (tobacco), seal, old dark blue, prune blue, dark blue (marine), olive, dark green, Bordeaux, dark gray, dark red, black, and light brown. Medium and cheap qualities are sought in all these lines. High-class articles also are sold, but the demand is small.

In communicating with Swiss dealers correspondence may be in German or French.

[Lists of wholesale and retail dealers in dry goods, women's tailors, and dressmaking houses in the Berne, Switzerland, consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80753.]

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR UNITED STATES.

Several interesting facts are presented in a preliminary report on mortality in 1915 issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. Gratifying progress has been made in the prevention of tuberculosis during recent years. In only a little more than a decade—from 1904 to 1915—the death rate from that disease in all its forms fell from 200.7 to 145.8 per 100,000, the decline being continuous from year to year. The death rate from pneumonia has shown a marked decline since 1900. Its fluctuations from year to year, however, have been pronounced.

Another point emphasized is that the "safety-first" campaign inaugurated a few years ago has borne good fruit, as indicated by the figures for accidental deaths. For 1913, 54,011 deaths were reported as due to accident; for 1914 the corresponding number was reduced to 51,770, and for 1915 to 51,406; and during this period there was not only an increase in the population of the registration area as it existed in 1913, but an increase in the extent of the area itself. The rate per 100,000 population for accidental deaths fell from 85.3 in 1913 to 78.5 in 1914 and to 76.3 in 1915. There has been a very considerable reduction in fatalities due to railway, street car, mine, and machinery accidents, and the increase in those resulting from automobile accidents has not been as rapid as the increase in the number of machines in use.

Deaths Due to Railway Accidents.

Deaths due to railway accidents and injuries totaled 6,652 in the registration area in 1915, or 9.9 per 100,000. This number includes fatalities resulting from collisions between railway trains and vehicles

at grade crossings. This death rate is the lowest on record, and shows a marked decline during the past 10 years.

Deaths resulting from street car accidents and injuries numbered 1,555, or 2.3 per 100,000. This rate, like that for railway fatalities, is the lowest on record, and shows a material falling off during the past 10 years.

Automobile accidents and injuries caused 3,978 deaths in 1915, or 5.9 per 100,000. The number of deaths from mine accidents and injuries in the registration area in 1915 was 2,009, corresponding to a rate of 3 per 100,000. This rate shows a material decline as compared with the corresponding figure for 1913, 3.6, and a very great decline as compared with that for 1907, 4.8, which is the highest on record.

Deaths caused by machinery accidents in 1915 numbered 1,257, or 1.9 per 100,000. This rate also shows a marked decline during recent years, the corresponding figures for 1913 and 1914 being 2.4 and 2, respectively. The highest recorded rate from this cause is 2.5 for 1907.

The census figures bring out the astonishing fact that during the year 1915 firearms caused more deaths than railroad accidents, more than five times as many as street car accidents, nearly as many as railroad and street car accidents combined, and more than twice as many as automobile accidents. The total number of deaths due to the use of firearms in the registration area in 1915 was 7,994, corresponding to a rate of 11.9 per 100,000. Of these deaths 3,608 were suicides, 2,885 were homicides, and 1,501 were accidental (including those concerning which the status as to suicide, homicide, or accident was in doubt). The suicidal use of firearms has increased from year to year since 1913; the frequency of accidental deaths due to their use shows a slight decline during recent years; and the homicidal use of firearms shows a decline as compared with 1913 and 1914, but an increase as compared with 1910, 1911, and 1912. No separate data as to homicides by firearms for the years prior to 1910 are available.

FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN YOKOHAMA.

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Japan, Oct. 13.]

According to local official records there are 6,292 foreign residents in Yokohama, occupying 2,394 houses. The Chinese population is the greatest, there being 3,981 of them in 1,344 houses. The British, numbering 1,106, come next, and the Americans third with 430 residents, followed by 264 Germans, 118 French, 98 Swiss, 86 Portuguese, 39 Russians, and 31 Dutch. The remaining nationalities have less than 30 representatives each. Consular officers and their families are not included in these figures.

GOATSKINS FOR AMERICAN MARKET.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Sept. 29.]

The price current and market report published fortnightly by the Madras Chamber of Commerce contains the following item under date of September 29:

Tanned skins.—Goat—the market is slightly firmer, due to large forward contracts having been made for American account. Government (British) have notified that about 490,000 monthly will be required for London. Sheep—London public sales having advanced 9d. [\$0.13] on average, sellers are asking extreme rates, with the result that small business has been done.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3795.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 354, water-closets; schedule 355, 36-inch capton flannel; schedule 356, rain bath shower heads, urinals with S trap and fittings, nitric acid, metallic brown in oil, pine pitch, and paint and varnish remover; schedule 357, one-fourth ton direct differential blocks, hardware (stamping figures, tool kits, rules, saws, etc.), iron or steel standard nuts, brass spring cotter pins, 8-inch long side cutting pliers, drawer pulls, carpenters' boxwood rules, flint sandpaper, composition boat spikes, wrought-iron or mild-steel spikes, three-eighths inch stencil cutting outfits, cut flathead copper tacks, and bench and pipe vices; schedule 358, 2-inch and 4-inch turbine tube cleaners, type "B" W. T. annunciators, nickel chromium resistance wire, 2½-inch composition tees, cross and check angle valves, gate valves, and one-half inch globe radiator valves; schedule 359, steel wire net in three sections, each 1,500 feet in length, and rod phosphor bronze; schedule 360, desk and bracket fans; schedule 361, steam steering machines; schedule 362, surface grinding machine and universal milling machine; schedule 363, oxyacetylene machine, and punch press and riveting machines; schedule 364, turbo-generating sets; schedule 365, 24-inch turret lathe; schedule 366, metal lockers 12 inches by 15 inches by 60 inches; schedule 367, oak piles 60 feet long; schedule 368, deep drawing steel disks, nickel steel (D-3 hoops) forgings, and steel boiler plates; schedule 369, No. 1 clear sugar pine, and 11-foot I. D. white-pine wood tubs; schedule 370, W. T. controlling panels, steel castings, and steam windlasses; schedule 371, steel pipe; schedule 372, evaporated apples, canned apples, cottonseed oil, black pepper, canned pumpkin, sirup, and granulated sugar; schedule 373, canned asparagus, apple butter, codfish and haddock, buckwheat flour, etc., condensed mincemeat, canned sliced pineapple, and Worcestershire sauce; schedule 374, 20-ton railroad box cars; schedule 375, shrapnel for 3-inch 50-caliber guns; schedule 376, 30-ton steam locomotive crane; schedule 377, 5-foot universal radial drills and heavy-duty drill press; schedule 378, copper cups, seamless drawn flasks, head forgings, "A" valves, bodies, fittings, etc., and turbine bucket cutting machines; and schedule 379, machine for coating paper with solution for blue printing.

Printing, No. 3796.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 18, 1916, for printing 500 special Snellen's Vision Test Cards, 2 fold, lithographed both sides, in accordance with sample which may be obtained on application to the above-named depot. Stone will be furnished by that depot.

Medicines, No. 3797.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until November 23, 1916, for furnishing magnesi sulphas, sapo mollis, oleum ricini, chloralum hydratum, isinglass plaster, silkworm-gut sutures, and pure silver wire sutures.

Motor trucks, No. 3798.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until November 18, 1916, for furnishing 1½-ton trucks, in accordance with specifications which may be obtained from the above-named office. (Proposals No. 888.)

X-ray supplies, No. 3799.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 15, 1916, for furnishing metol, hydroquinone, barium sulphate, bismuth subcarbonate, acid sulphurous, sodium hyposulphite, dark-room lanterns, rubber aprons, plate carriers, X-ray dental films, fluoroscopes, rubber gloves, wood plate holders for 10 by 12 plates, intensifying screens, pocket stereoscopes, soapstone developing tanks, and developing trays.

Woolen blankets, No. 3800.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until November 23, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiaries at McNeil Island, Wash., and Atlanta, Ga., woolen blankets in accordance with specifications, copies of which together with further information may be obtained upon application to the above-named office.

PAPER-TRADE CONDITIONS IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 28.]

The Spanish Government has officially recognized the shortage of paper and material by provisional legislation to foster the domestic industry. It is now discussing the expediency of granting a kind of credit intended to pay the difference between the price of paper before the declaration of war and the current price. The National Treasury would be reimbursed for this payment by means of a tax of 5 centimos (about \$0.01) per 100 kilos on paper when normal conditions are reestablished. The present so-called "paper crisis" in Spain has been freely discussed in the public press and in *Ergos*, the periodical of the Spanish paper industry, published at Granvia 3, Valencia, Spain. The pronounced scarcity of pulp wood and of the essential chemicals has seriously affected the home manufacture. Nevertheless various kinds of paper are actually exported from Spain in increasing quantities.

Various Classes of Paper Exports.

Cigarette paper of Spanish production already finds acceptance in foreign markets, and a kind of parchment, used generally only for legal documents, is exported to several South American countries. The names and addresses of paper makers in this Kingdom are forwarded. The list does not include many of the small manufacturers who are in the Paper Makers' Directory of all Nations, 1916 edition, published by Dean & Son (Ltd.), 160A Fleet Street, London, E. C., England. Names of local dealers in textile wastes, old bagging, and rags also are forwarded.

The Spanish Government recently placed a temporary embargo on the exportation of paper stock. In one or two instances, however, this has been lifted in favor of shipments to the United States, at the request of our Department of State.

A brief report from this consulate general on the scarcity of paper in Spain was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 15, 1916.

In correspondence with firms here it would be best to use Spanish.

[Lists of manufacturers of paper in Spain and of dealers in textile wastes, old bagging, and rags in Barcelona may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81319.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 397 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Advertising specialties	22970	Hardware	22970
Agricultural implements	22970	Hats and hosiery	22970
Bones, bovine	22966	Household articles	22970
Boots and shoes	22969	Inks, printing	22972
Bottle fillers and washers	22964	Lard	22970
Buttons	22970	Oilecloth	22970
Candy	22970	Piece goods	22969, 22970, 22971
Clocks and watches	22969, 22974	Provisions	22969
Cotton goods	22971	Shoe polish	22968
Creamery supplies	22964, 22965	Stationery supplies	22972
Disinfectants	22970	Thread	22970
Dynamo sheets	22973	Tractors, farm	22968
Electric dynamos and motors	22970	Umbrellas	22969
Galvanized iron	22970	Whisky	22970
General merchandise	22967	Wire	22970
Haberdashery	22969		

22964.†—A firm in the Netherlands dealing in bottle fillers, bottle washers, etc., desires to receive price lists and terms of sale from American manufacturers of goods in that line. The firm also desires to receive agency proposals.

22965.†—A firm in Greece wishes to enter into commercial relations with an American manufacturer of creamery supplies. Catalogues and price lists are desired.

22966.†—A firm in Canada desires to be placed in touch with American firms in a position to supply bovine bones, such as thigh bones and buttocks, shin bones and shanks, which are used as substitutes in the manufacture of brush handles and other wares.

22967.†—A dealer in general merchandise and life insurance representative in Belgium wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American firms in any line not requiring special or technical knowledge. References. Correspondence in English.

22968.†—A man in Mexico asks the Bureau to place him in touch with manufacturers of gasoline or kerosene farm tractors.

22967.†—A dealer in general merchandise and life insurance representative in prices and discounts given on the medium and cheaper grades of boots and shoes and shoe polish, haberdashery, piece goods, provisions of all kinds, umbrellas, and watches and clocks.

22970.*—A firm in Venezuela desires to represent American manufacturers of wire of all kinds, including barbed wire; galvanized-iron sheets; buttons; hosiery; candy; disinfectants; dynamos and electric motors; advertising specialties; household articles; agricultural implements; hardware; sewing thread; embroidery thread; oilecloth; straw hats and felt hats; piece goods; whisky; and lard. References. Correspondence preferably in Spanish.

22971.†—A representative of a South American import firm doing business in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay has opened an office in New York and desires to communicate with American manufacturers of cotton piece goods, such as drills, printed shirtings, tickings, etc. References.

22972.*—An import commission firm in Spain is in the market for all kinds of stationery supplies and printing inks in wholesale quantities. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

22973.*—A firm in Denmark is in the market for black plates (dynamo sheets); size 1,000 by 2,000 by 0.5 m. m. Wattloss, 3.6 watts; quantity 100 to 200 tons. References.

22974.*—A firm in the United Kingdom desires to purchase in wholesale lots cheapest quality of reliable metal lever clocks for tables and mantels. Quotations should be by the dozen for the larger sizes and by the gross for the smaller. Descriptive catalogues and full information desired.

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



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ADDITIONS TO DANISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American consul, general, Copenhagen, Nov. 9.]

An export prohibition has been placed on drawn iron and steel wire, wire cloth, wire nails, wire tacks, and horseshoe nails.

SHIPMENT OF COPPER TO NORWAY.

[Cablegram from American minister, Christiania, Nov. 10.]

The Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that an agreement has again been reached by the Norwegian and British Governments allowing the shipment to Norway from the United States of 3,000 tons of copper provided an equivalent amount of Norwegian copper pyrites is shipped to England.

[Notices on this subject were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 7 and Oct. 2, 1916.]

MONETARY SYSTEM AND BANKS OF HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Oct. 25.]

Silver pesos of Honduras, Salvador, Chile, Peru, and Guatemala are equally current in Honduras. These coins are usually 25 grams in weight, 0.900 fine, or say, 22.5 grams of fine silver, equivalent to 0.723 troy ounce. With an average value of 60 cents an ounce for bar silver, the silver pesos have a value in gold of 43.5 cents. Deducting 2 to 3 per cent for exchange or transfer of funds from money centers of the United States, the remainder should normally represent the value of Honduras money (rate of exchange) in the northern or Gulf coast sections.

The fruit companies require a larger amount of silver for their operations than do the mining or other industrial activities of the interior, so that silver pesos have a higher value (usually about 5 per cent, this being the average expense of transferring by mule trails to the interior) on the coast. With bar silver, therefore, at an average value of 60 cents, the Honduras peso should be worth about 42 cents gold on the Gulf coast and 40 cents in Tegucigalpa.

Restrictions Placed on Exportation of Coin.

Such was the basis for valuation before the war, when bar silver was more or less steady in price. Since then silver has fluctuated, going

down as low as 45 cents and up to 77 cents, so that with the free movement of silver coin speculators might export all the hard money in the country and have the Republic practically demonetized except for the paper issued by the banks and the required silver reserve for outstanding bills. The Government sought to prevent this by an export tax of 15 per cent on coin and 5 per cent on bullion, and, later, by totally prohibiting the exportation of coin, and allowing bar silver to be shipped only from known mining companies.

As a further precautionary measure the Government decreed that all customs duties must be paid in "silver pesos," and that the industrial and fruit companies of the northern coast must pay wages in silver coin as well. As the Government revenue is but little in excess of the necessary public expenditures, the silver is not monopolized by the Government; on the contrary, by this means it is kept in constant and general circulation.

Since the close of the year 1915 the average value of bar silver has been about 68 cents. This would normally give an exchange rate on New York of 208 per cent on the coast and 218 per cent in Tegucigalpa; or, in other words, the Honduras peso would be locally worth 48 and 46 cents in these respective sections. As it is the actual exchange value has been about 42 and 40 cents.

Banking Business Regulated by Commercial Code.

There is no banking law in Honduras, but all commercial and banking business is governed by the rulings of the Honduras Commercial Code (Codigo de Comercio). The three banks of issue, the Banco de Honduras, Banco Atlantida, and the Banco de Comercio, are each working under a special concession granted by the Government and legalized by decree of the National Congress. The following statement shows the paid-up capital and outstanding paper of the several banks according to their published statements:

Bank.	Capital.	Bank notes.
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
Banco de Honduras.....	417,500	505,000
Banco de Atlantida.....	625,000	230,000
Banco de Comercio.....	500,000	44,000
Total.....	1,542,500	785,000

* The authorized capital stock of the Banco Atlantida is \$500,000 gold, one-half paid up, and the above estimate is based on a valuation of 2.50 pesos for each dollar in American currency.

The several banks are authorized under their concessions to issue paper to the amount of double their capital stock, subject, however, to a silver reserve of 50 per cent.

The amount of silver in active circulation in the country is estimated by the different banks at 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 pesos. Taking 2,500,000 pesos as an average and adding 785,000 pesos in paper money it will be seen that the actual money in the country is only 3,285,000 pesos, or \$1,314,000 in American currency based on a valuation of \$0.40 per silver peso. With this Honduras does an annual foreign business of about \$10,000,000, besides internal commerce.

TONNAGE CRISIS AT THE PORT OF ALMERIA.

[Consul Percival Gassett, Oct. 14.]

Following the sinking of two Spanish steamers with cargoes of Almeria grapes bound for the British markets, toward the end of September, the Spanish steamship lines refused to continue this service. In the meantime the cutting and packing of grapes continued, with the result that on the 1st of October nearly a half million barrels were stored on the open docks of Almeria awaiting shipment. The congestion was so great that many of the barrels, for lack of room on the docks, had to be stored in the adjoining park. Fortunately for the packers the weather continued most favorable, there being an entire absence of rain, but naturally there was great anxiety among the growers and exporters and the governmental authorities were repeatedly appealed to for a solution of this serious problem.

Arrival of Fruit Steamers Relieves Congestion.

The crisis was alleviated by the timely arrival, on October 1, of several steamers bound for New York. One steamer alone took over 51,000 barrels. From that date until October 10 there was no lack of tonnage for American markets. On October 6 and 7 there were seven steamers in port at one time, loading for New York, and they took a total of at least 140,000 barrels. Only the fear of glutting the market prevented the shippers from sending more. At present the situation is greatly relieved. Several British, Scandinavian, and Spanish vessels have called for fruit for the British markets within the past few days, and the quantity on dock has diminished to less than 300,000 barrels. On the 12th instant a British steamer took over 65,000 barrels to England. Exporters claim that this tonnage crisis is unprecedented in the history of the business.

According to reliable reports the bulk of the fruit has already been cut and packed, although it is expected that the export season will continue all through November. The number of barrels exported to date reaches 1,034,150, as compared with 732,488 for the past year. Liverpool leads with 334,089 barrels, followed by New York and London with, respectively, 263,911 and 163,624. The market reports are considered very satisfactory.

NEW VENEZUELAN COAL MINE.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 17.]

A new coal mine has been opened upon the right bank of the Unare River, a stream emptying into the Caribbean Sea about 120 miles east of La Guaira. The new mine is about 15 miles west of those at Naricual, which have been producing coal for many years. At present about 20 tons daily are being extracted and shipped to Puerto Unare, but it is expected that production will increase rapidly. The location of the mine is described as being less than 5 miles from tidewater and immediately upon the bank of a river having a minimum depth of 14½ feet. Dr. Andres Hernandez Caballero, Puerto Unare, is in charge of the work. Any correspondence should be in Spanish.

QUALITY WINS FOR AMERICAN HARDWARE.

Quality is emphasized as the distinguishing characteristic of American hardware in a report by Commercial Attaché Albert Hale on hardware markets in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. "Upon this sales factor," he says, "the American manufacturer can most surely depend for success."

Mr. Hale states that during the past year the sales of this class of goods from the United States have increased rapidly in Argentina, and that it is thought that much of the increased trade will be retained after the war. He finds that American hardware manufacturers are now reaping their reward for having built up in Argentina an unsurpassed reputation for their products. Germany and England have outsold Americans to some extent in this market in the past, but almost always by introducing cheaper articles. The normal imports of hardware into Argentina are between five and six million dollars, the total for 1913 being \$5,771,145. Of this total Germany supplied \$1,848,897 worth, England \$1,365,709 worth, and the United States \$1,211,097 worth.

Expects European Attempt to Recover Lost Ground.

The opinion is expressed that when the war is over there will be a serious effort on the part of European manufacturers to get back the trade they have lost and that one of their first steps will be to establish at Buenos Aires local and permanent representatives or to make intimate connections with houses already there.

"To be on the spot," says Mr. Hale, "is the only way to understand this market. The demand is constantly changing, and the tendency is to purchase better tools and hardware. This tendency has been especially noticeable during the past two years, and much of it is due to the influence of better grades from the United States. Therefore the manufacturer should not try too hard to meet competition on the basis of price. He should sell quality."

Previous to the war Americans dominated the market for axes and hatchets, wrenches, saws, and revolvers, and had an important share of the trade in files, keys, nails, screws and nuts, and miscellaneous tools. Germany dominated a number of lines, and it is a curious fact that many more German safety razors were sold in Argentina than came from the United States.

The author of the report has gone at length into conditions governing the hardware trade of Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay and has discussed in detail the trade in each particular article of hardware. It is the fourth report of the series on the world's markets for hardware, the exact title being "Markets for American Hardware in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay," Miscellaneous Series, No. 43. There are 66 pages in all. Copies may be purchased for 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

ORDER FOR APPLES SECURED THROUGH AMERICAN CONSUL.

The Commercial Agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in Seattle, Wash., reports that a firm in that city recently made a shipment of apples to Sweden, valued at \$1,134. Connections with the Swedish firm were made through the aid of the American consul at Goteborg, Sweden.

ELECTRIC SMELTING PROPOSED IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 4.]

The possibility of producing pig iron in New Zealand on a large scale is being thoroughly studied by the authorities as well as by private interests here. It is proposed to use electricity for this purpose instead of coal, as indicated in a circular containing the report of the chief electrical engineer of the New Zealand Government.

Water Power May Be Developed Easily.

There is an ample supply of iron ore in various forms, and plenty of water power that may be developed easily to supply electricity at an exceedingly low figure. The report mentioned states that matters are being well organized with the idea of entering upon this industry on short notice as soon as plans are completed. The report by the chief electrical engineer was in part as follows:

The cost of electric smelting of iron ores in Sweden is less than the cost of the blast-furnace process, but the Swedes have a particularly pure ore to deal with, and moreover charcoal is used instead of coke for reducing purposes, while the furnaces are much smaller in size than the blast furnaces in England and America. The consequence, therefore, is that where water power is cheap, and where a special grade of iron is produced from pure ores with the use of charcoal, electric smelting is cheaper than the blast-furnace smelting. This is particularly the case if steel making and refining of the iron are carried on simultaneously with the smelting operations, so that the waste gases resulting from the smelting of the ore can be utilized for converting into steel and for refining. On the contrary, where lower grades of ore only are obtainable (and this applies to the vast bulk of ore in the world), and where coal is cheap, and where the demand is such that pig iron can be produced on a large scale at the rate of 700 to 2,000 tons per week per furnace, electricity has not a hope or competing with the blast furnace under these conditions—that is to say, where pig iron has to be produced of ordinary everyday quality from average quality of ore, a blast furnace is unrivalled.

Electricity Coming into General Use at Rapid Rate.

Next, as regards the use of electricity for remelting and refining of iron, electricity is coming into general use at a very rapid rate for this purpose. It will not, however, supersede the Bessemer process or the open-hearth process for ordinary classes of steel in bulk, but is being used, and will in the future be used, to a large extent as an ancillary to these processes for refining purposes and for preparing the higher quality of steel. It is also being used at a rapidly increasing rate for foundry purposes, and is specially adapted for this class of work, as it will deal with a greater variety of material than the ordinary converter in use in foundries and engineering works is capable of doing. Another use to which electric furnaces are being put very largely is for reheating and annealing purposes, and it has a special field all its own in the production of special alloys of iron which can not be produced in any other way, or if produced can not be done so economically.

As regards New Zealand, the two principal sources of iron are the Parapara iron and the Taranaki iron sands. The Parapara ore is of medium quality as regards the iron contents, and can probably be more economically produced and smelted by the blast-furnace process as long as coke is available in New Zealand. As regards the Taranaki iron sands, I believe that there exists here a source of considerable industry which will be developed in course of time for making a special quality of pig iron in which titanium will play an important part, and also for the purpose of making alloys of iron and titanium for special purposes, and, given a demand for special-quality pig iron and ferrotitanium alloys, these could be more economically produced from the iron sands by means of an electric furnace than by the blast-furnace process. The reason of this is that the fine grains are not suitable for use in a blast furnace, because they tend to choke the furnace, and also are liable to be carried away by the blast. Consequently some form of briquetting has to be adopted, which adds to the expense, and moreover does not enable the blast furnace to work at its best advantage.

NEW SEASON AUSTRALIAN WOOL SALES.

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Sept. 11.]

The second series of Brisbane wool sales was held August 28, 29, and 30, at which time about 30,000 bales were offered. Japanese buyers were very prominent in the market and maintained the price for greasy wools at a high level. The best grade of scoured wools fell off 10 to 15 per cent from the figure secured at the previous wool sale. The sentiment of the trade was that so long as prices remained firm there would probably be no determined movement in favor of removing the American embargo; if, however, prices slumped, such a movement was anticipated.

The first wool sales in Sydney for this season were held on September 11, 12, 13, and 14; 28,500 bales were offered. Prices averaged about the same as at the Brisbane sale. The second Sydney sale will be held September 25, 26, 27, and 28. Melbourne has already had one wool sale, which was highly successful. During the next few months the great weight of the new clip will reach the selling centers of Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Geelong, and Adelaide.

It is remarked in the press that last year one-third of the wool clip was taken by the United States, whereas at present there is an embargo on the export of wool to that country. Already there is some uneasiness that the price of wool will not be maintained when the large supplies come upon the market unless America is allowed to purchase, and it has been suggested that the embargo be restricted to only certain classes of wool.

[An article by Commercial Attaché Kennedy on "The Embargo and Australia's Wool Sales" appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 19, 1916.]

LICORICE FOR CHINESE MEDICINE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 26.]

There is usually a strong demand in the wholesale drug market of Hongkong for licorice root (known among the Chinese as gum cho), but the trade has been brought into new prominence in the past few months by a rise in price to as high as \$70 local currency per picul of 133½ pounds, or 26 cents United States gold a pound. At present the price is about \$50 local currency, or approximately 20 cents gold a pound. A normal price is \$30 to \$40 local currency, or 11 to 15 cents gold a pound. The root retails in Hongkong all the way from 10 cents to 50 cents gold a pound, according to quality.

Kansu Province in northwest China is the chief supplier of the Hongkong market. The root arrives here in bundles of irregular sizes wrapped in coarse grass or reed matting. The pieces range in length up to 1½ feet and in thickness up to three-fourths of an inch. They are the gray-brown root with yellow core once familiar to American schoolboys. The Chinese use the root for the manufacture of "cooling medicine," or a decoction for fevers. Inasmuch as licorice plants are at times a pest in some of the dry western sections of the United States the possibilities of trade in this line may merit attention. The import of the root into Hongkong is easily the largest item in the Chinese wholesale drug trade.

THE SWISS CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 2.]

On account of the closing of certain sources of chemical supplies following the breaking out of the war, a large number of inquiries have been received at the consulate at Berne from American importers concerning Swiss dyestuffs and pharmaceutical products.

How Switzerland's chemists have responded to the opportunity not only with regard to the American market but to those of the world, is revealed by the country's export figures for 1914 and 1915, which are as follows:

Items.	1914	1915
Chemicals for industrial purposes.....	\$3,516,742	\$5,887,067
Paints, dyes, and colors.....	6,232,660	6,443,548
Pharmaceutical products, drugs, and perfumery.....	3,100,162	4,747,680

Rapid Development of Swiss Industry.

The rapid development of the industry is all the more remarkable when it is recalled that Switzerland itself is poor in mineral wealth, furnishing no raw materials for the technical chemist but salt, lime, and asphalt. With these exceptions, all crude materials must be imported.

The absence, until recently, of cheap motive power, transportation difficulties, the small home market, and aggressive foreign competition, were some of the early difficulties encountered and successfully overcome by the Swiss in the development of their chemical industry.

That it will continue to maintain its position after the war seems certain, unless the country is itself swept into the conflict. It will have available for the inevitable commercial struggle after the war a strong organization and cheap motive power.

Exports of aniline colors rose in value from \$4,794,960 in 1913 to \$5,585,738 in 1915, of which more than half went to England. English imports of Swiss dyestuffs have doubled in value since the beginning of the war. German imports declined from \$891,773 to \$78,914, and those of the United States also showed a considerable loss. On the other hand, Berne dealers are at present (September, 1916) in the market for caustic potash and other potash compounds to use in the manufacture of dyestuffs.

For the first time in years Swiss alkaloids and saccharin were imported by the United States. Other items in this category worthy of note were nucleinic silver, citral, oil of ginger, glycerin, and oil of orris root.

American Purchases of Swiss Pharmaceutical Products, etc.

In 1915 the United States imported \$551,091 worth of Swiss pharmaceutical products, drugs, perfumery, and chemicals other than dyestuffs, as compared with \$394,384 worth during the preceding year. American purchases are largely limited to acid potassium tartrate, boric and phosphoric acids, sodium, tanning extracts, oil of lavender, carnation oil, camphor, methylated alcohol, collodion, phosgen, chlorine, codeine, bromine, coal-tar derivatives, benzylchloride,

nitrobenzene, naphthol, glue, gelatin, and fish glue. Exports in this class to the United States for the two years were as follows:

Items.	1914	1915	Items.	1914	1915
Chemicals for pharmaceutical purposes:			Chemicals for industrial purposes—Continued.		
Vegetable alkaloids.....		\$19,981	Methylated alcohol.....	\$7,517	\$1,125
Saccharin.....		8,754	Coal-tar derivatives.....		2,474
All other.....	\$22,881	45,181	Benzylchloride.....		706
Pharmaceutical powders, etc.	11,988	38,454	Glue.....	23,469	87,145
Perfumery and cosmetics.....	168,999	162,505	Gelatin and fish glue.....	78,865	35,562
Chemicals for industrial purposes:			Dyeing materials:		
Acid potassium tartrate..	2,780	7,145	Logwood extracts.....	77,714	6,002
Boric and phosphoric acids.....	5,382	2,740	Aniline colors.....	1,039,721	819,528
Sodium.....		13,067	Indigo.....	178,854	158,101
Tanning extracts.....	47,503	15,976	Other artificial colors.....		3,528
Glycerin.....	25,000	110,277	Varnish and enamel.....	114	
			Total.....	1,090,787	1,536,251

Total Exports of Pharmaceutical and Drug Products.

The increases in Switzerland's export trade in its leading pharmaceutical and drug products last year is clearly shown in the following statement, which gives the values of the exports for the two years:

Pharmaceutical and drug products.	1914	1915	Pharmaceutical and drug products.	1914	1915
Acid potassium tartrate.....	\$22,000	\$85,000	Glycerin.....	\$97,000	\$174,000
Boric and phosphoric acids..	30,000	65,000	Methylated alcohol, collodion, phosgen, chlorine, iodine, and bromine.....	82,000	344,000
Calcium carbide.....	1,351,000	2,316,000	Nitric acid.....	56,000	82,000
Chlorates, perchlorates, and persulphates.....	268,000	662,000	Sodium.....	101,000	310,000
Coal-tar derivatives.....	24,000	100,000	Tannic and gallic acids.....	152,000	143,000
Gelatin and fish glue.....	186,000	256,000	Tanning extracts.....	133,000	145,000
Glue.....	157,000	246,000			

The acid potassium tartrate went chiefly to Germany, France, and the United States; boric and phosphoric acids to Austria, France, Germany, and the United States; calcium carbide nearly all to Germany; chlorates, perchlorates, and persulphates, a third to Japan, the remainder largely to France; sodium to France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States; nitric acid to Germany and France; tannic and gallic acids (the only items of importance showing a decrease), mainly to France, some to the United Kingdom; tanning extracts, mainly to Germany, some to France and the United States; glycerin, more than one-half to the United States and some to Germany; methylated alcohol, collodion, phosgen, chlorine, iodine, and bromine, mainly to the United Kingdom, some to France, Italy, and the United States; coal-tar derivatives mainly to France and the United Kingdom, some to the United States; glue, more than one-half to the United States; gelatin and fish glue, mainly to the United Kingdom, France, and the United States.

Pharmaceutical Specialties—Swiss Chemical Works.

Among the numerous pharmaceutical specialties manufactured in this consular district are protargol, collargol, argyrol, itrol, and solargyl (a new silver protein compound, containing 30 per cent of silver and very soluble in water). Other pharmaceutical preparations, originating in this district, are airol, phytin, throcol, salen, benzosalen, vioform, lipogodin, jodostarin, and jodogallicin.

Of the 107 and more chemical works and laboratories in Switzerland, 7 are in the Berne consular district; the majority, however, are in Zurich, Basel, and Geneva. Haaf & Co., of Liebefeld, near Berne, is perhaps the most important company in the district. It is not only actively engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products but it has succeeded in producing artificial leather, ivory, celluloid, and rubber. The last is claimed to be cheaper than the natural caoutchouc.

The first Swiss chemical factory dates back to 1764, but the industry as a whole did not begin to flourish until the middle of the nineteenth century. The coal-tar color industry made its appearance about 1860 and rapidly grew to be the most important chemical industry of the country. Its colors were first exported in considerable quantities in 1896. Synthetic indigo, however, did not become an export article until 1911, when \$978,957 worth was exported, more than one-half going to China and \$178,854 worth to the United States.

Exports of Dyestuffs.

The importance of the Swiss dye industry is shown by the following table of exports since 1896:

Year.	Coal-tar colors.	Vegetable dyestuff extracts.	Tanning extracts.	Synthetic indigo.
1896	\$2,580,754	\$94,923	\$126,770	.....
1897	3,189,632	117,480	147,627	.....
1898	3,259,539	98,156	135,323	.....
1899	3,172,331	81,960	148,153	.....
1900	2,961,173	69,576	125,347	.....
1901	2,847,389	65,610	123,719	.....
1902	3,081,563	73,871	141,673	.....
1903	3,336,626	76,967	146,778	.....
1904	3,432,436	75,732	133,064	.....
1905	3,862,766	73,068	160,137	.....
1906	4,209,046	72,038	142,803	.....
1907	4,233,533	78,866	139,872	.....
1908	3,793,896	81,638	152,419	.....
1909	4,667,969	94,239	183,640	.....
1910	4,905,022	99,142	223,434	.....
1911	4,920,212	115,404	297,684	\$72,460
1912	4,970,474	97,346	315,130	291,334
1913	4,794,960	96,967	323,782	754,792
1914	5,123,944	84,250	286,252	978,956
1915	5,585,738	94,261	289,144	434,525

Coal-Tar Colors.

The Swiss trade in coal-tar colors, apart from synthetic indigo, is shown in the following table:

Countries.	1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
IMPORTS.				
Belgium.....	20,943	\$6,417	.....	.....
France.....	4,188	1,283	220	(a)
Germany.....	1,491,426	456,970	513,677	(a)
Italy.....	8,508	2,634	1,543	(a)
United Kingdom.....	20,943	6,417	.....	.....
All other countries.....	444	135	220	(a)
Total.....	1,546,342	473,862	515,660	\$270,856

(a) Not separately stated.

Countries.	1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
EXPORTS.				
Argentina.....			30,423	\$18,057
Austria.....	705,037	\$201,866	134,702	38,288
Belgium.....	424,609	114,390		
Brazil.....			115,522	71,866
British India.....	700,897	176,411	211,208	118,020
Canada.....			89,728	30,610
China.....			35,714	12,627
Denmark.....			118,167	41,467
France.....	343,700	192,432	503,534	335,229
Germany.....	2,811,333	881,773	221,485	78,914
Italy.....	1,385,824	409,224	1,655,099	741,577
Japan.....	561,078	165,686	69,004	57,435
Netherlands.....			123,600	45,286
Norway.....			39,021	14,133
Portugal.....			74,736	31,479
Russia.....			91,712	59,296
Spain.....	246,917	94,645	141,977	68,943
Sweden.....			72,532	25,573
United States.....	3,128,798	1,039,721	1,583,138	819,628
United Kingdom.....	3,856,884	1,296,209	5,217,900	2,958,787
All other countries.....	1,578,730	541,587	36,599	19,135
Total.....	15,833,805	5,123,944	10,585,706	5,585,738

In 1913 the imports totaled 1,539,266 pounds, valued at \$444,683, and the exports 15,508,856 pounds, worth \$4,794,960.

Natural and Artificial Indigo.

Germany supplied all of the indigo imported into Switzerland in 1914, 98,987 pounds, valued at \$15,598; while last year it sent all but 3,306 pounds out of a total importation of 29,541 pounds. The 1915 imports of indigo totaled \$14,427 in value (separate figures by countries are not yet available).

The exports of indigo, by countries, for 1914 and 1915 are shown in the following statement:

Countries.	1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
Belgium.....	100,599	\$16,930		
Brazil.....			7,054	\$2,316
British India.....	68,563	10,204		
China.....	3,542,644	531,256	261,026	47,355
Denmark.....			5,291	3,478
France.....	204,148	33,010	716,619	113,210
Italy.....	162,260	35,288	127,868	25,873
Japan.....	154,103	96,225	16,755	2,480
Netherlands.....			44,533	10,357
Russia.....	36,155	22,175	31,085	28,065
Spain.....	46,958	31,567	54,013	39,670
United Kingdom.....	26,896	9,061	15,211	3,960
United States.....	1,018,093	178,854	810,859	156,141
All other countries.....	56,658	14,387	5,070	1,610
Total.....	5,396,047	978,957	2,094,384	434,535

In 1913 the exports of indigo amounted to 3,950,241 pounds, worth \$754,792.

Vegetable Colors from Dyewoods.

The manufacture of vegetable colors by the extraction of dyewoods, chiefly logwood, is well developed in Switzerland. The trade in this branch is shown by the following table:

Countries.	1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
IMPORTS.				
Central America.....	409,839	\$46,641	109,790	(a)
France.....	224,690	18,683	144,402	(a)
Germany.....	159,614	13,274	341,936	(a)
Italy.....	881	73	128,309	(a)
United Kingdom.....	36,376	3,024	127,206	(a)
United States.....	287,922	32,767	488,626	(a)
Total.....	1,119,322	114,462	1,340,369	\$213,734
EXPORTS.				
Austria.....	140,875	11,310	88,405	8,514
Belgium.....	42,760	2,760		
Denmark.....	3,968	414		
France.....	17,637	2,642	45,415	6,871
Germany.....	234,351	26,211	130,293	13,130
Italy.....	24,030	5,154	100,069	12,174
Japan.....	71,429	4,494	30,644	3,314
Netherlands.....	35,063	2,658	39,683	5,189
Norway.....	1,763	233	13,668	1,979
Portugal.....	6,172	433		
Russia.....	4,850	2,662	12,566	5,135
Spain.....	24,470	2,095	66,359	7,654
Sweden.....	22,707	2,611	25,573	2,961
United Kingdom.....	41,887	5,568	116,404	20,115
United States.....	95,670	15,000	31,967	6,002
Total.....	767,631	84,245	709,002	94,254

(a) Not separately stated.

In 1913 Switzerland imported 1,165,142 pounds, worth \$115,240, and exported 987,229 pounds, to the value of \$95,987.

Importance of Swiss Dyestuff Industry.

Few realize the rôle which Switzerland has played in the evolution of the artificial dyestuff industry, despite the entire absence in the land of coal and of raw material for the manufacture of chemicals, with the exception of lime and salt. Immediately prior to the war, Switzerland, on the basis of population, was supplying twice as much as Germany, relatively, to the world's market for synthetic colors.

In every branch of tinctorial chemistry Swiss chemists have displayed a fertility of invention quite equal to that shown by English, French, and German rivals.

Some of the most important of the current standard coal-tar colors originated in Swiss laboratories.

The following list of Swiss synthetic dyes, now regularly manufactured and available for export to the United States, is worthy of note in connection with the existing shortage in dyestuffs:

Synthetic indigo.	Rocelline.	Direct brown.
Sudan colors.	Roxamine.	Direct indigo blues.
Chrysoidine.	Acid ponceau.	Direct blues.
Alizarin yellow.	Sulphon violet.	Anthracene red.
Apollo red.	Azo alizarin bordeaux.	Indazurines.
Persian yellow.	Azo alizarin black.	Melogene blue.
Carminaph garnet.	Bismarck brown.	Isodiphenyl black.
Fast red.	Diphenyl black.	Direct indone blue.
Resorcin yellow.	Diphenyl blue black.	Trisulphon brown.
Curcumine.	Trisulphon violet.	Diphenyl green.
Narcefine.	Trisulphon blue.	Chloramine green.
Tartrazine.	Direct gray.	Alizarin yellow.
Metanil yellow.	Direct black.	Mekong yellow.
Kermesin orange.	Direct violet.	Azo orange R.

Alsace green.	Methyl alkali blue.	Delphiné blue.
Diphenyl citronine.	Navy blue B.	Gallocyanine.
Diphenyl chrysofine.	Diphenylamine blue.	Chromocyanine.
Diphenyl fast yellow.	Chrome violet.	Indallizarin.
Diphenyl fast brown.	Night blue.	Violet moderne.
Diphenyl orange.	Wool green.	Parme R.
Diphenyl catechine.	Rhodamines.	Gallamine.
Mikado orange.	Eosines.	Coreine.
Polychromines.	Methyl eosine.	Phenocyanines.
Chicago orange.	Cyanosines.	Gallazine.
Auramine.	Rose bengale.	Gallinilic violets.
Setoglaucline.	Phosphine.	Gallinilic blues.
Glacier blue.	Alizarin V.	Gallinilic greens.
Victoria green.	Indophenols.	Resortin blue.
Victoria blues.	Indochromogen.	Mellola's blue.
Acid green.	Neutral red.	New blues.
Erioglaucline.	Neutral violet.	Fast green M.
Crystal violet.	Safranine.	Muscarine.
Ethyl violet.	Fuchsine.	Mimosa.
Alkali violet.	Indulines.	Cyanine.
Acid violets.	Nigrosines.	
Eriocyanines.	Basel blue.	

[A study on Swiss dyestuffs for American use is contained in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 17, 1915.]

SWISS INTEREST IN STENCIL MACHINES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 7.]

Considerable interest is manifested in stencil machines in Switzerland, and Berne dealers have expressed the opinion that the old stencil systems will soon have to give way to more modern methods. The big Swiss chocolate, automobile, cheese, and condensed-milk exporters would, seemingly, be the first to take up with improved appliances of this kind.

For general marking, metal stencil letters have been employed by the local trade. Of late years rubber-stamp marking has been introduced. The type is of specially prepared rubber, but its exact composition is a secret.

Important firms have large collections of addresses in the form of metal stencils, while small concerns use the letter stencil (metal). Cheap cardboard stencils are also used in certain circumstances. Nearly all of these stencils are of domestic manufacture, there being ten stencil factories in Switzerland, one of which is in the Berne consular district.

BULK HANDLING OF GRAIN IN AUSTRALIA.

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Sept. 11.]

The Farmers' Union in New South Wales has passed a resolution unanimously requesting the State government to push on with utmost vigor its scheme for handling wheat in bulk. The Minister for Railways in the State of Victoria has also urged that the proposals for bulk handling in this State be immediately pushed through, and that a commission be appointed to consider specifications and bids.

[References to the bulk handling of grain in Australia have frequently appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS; see the issues for Nov. 11, 1913, Aug. 21 and 25, 1916, and Feb. 2, Mar. 17, and Oct. 7, 1916.]

PRESENT DEMAND FOR PIANOS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Vice Consul Hugh S. Hood, Durban, Natal, Aug. 31.]

Natal has no piano factories. Few American pianos are sold in this market, but the number of sales seems to be increasing. Imports of this class are largely from England and Europe.

Musical instruments valued at \$53,108 were imported into Durban during the first six months of 1915, and \$90,507 worth furnished the record for the first six months of 1916. For the whole year 1915 musical instruments to the value of \$146,082 were imported into Durban. The customs statistics do not show the respective values of the various classes of instruments.

Imports of Musical Instruments into the Union.

The imports of musical instruments (not including phonographs and accessories) into the Union of South Africa for 1914 and 1915 were:

Countries.	1914	1915	Countries.	1914	1915
Austria-Hungary.....	\$1,007	\$87	Russia.....		\$44
Belgium.....	890		Spain.....	\$39	165
China.....	53		Sweden.....	307	
Denmark.....	180	10	Switzerland.....	150	4,034
Egypt.....	5		United Kingdom.....	159,898	228,648
France.....	5,474	9,833	Canada.....	11,334	2,015
Germany.....	330,965	21,778	India.....	452	413
Netherlands.....	150	73	Australia.....		5
Italy.....	394	1,222	New Zealand.....	10	
Japan.....	29	764	Mauritius.....	73	
Norway.....	63	5	United States.....	43,769	52,519
Portugal.....		5			
Madeira.....	58	19	Total.....	555,290	321,739

American pianos compare favorably with others in quality, style, tone, and touch. The only criticism heard is that they are larger, or stand higher, than the popular taste demands. The average cottage has small rooms, and even in larger places the small instrument is preferred.

The duty on pianos is 20 per cent, and the latest freight quotation from New York to Durban is \$37.80, plus 15 per cent surcharge per ton of 40 cubic feet. Before the war the freight rate on pianos was \$10.46.

Sale for Low-Priced Upright Pianos.

It is understood that there should be a fair sale for low-priced upright pianos. Manufacturers should send samples or, better still, a sample of each style to be introduced in this market. The sample or samples may be sent to the firms' agents or representatives on consignment, and when no longer needed as samples probably could be sold for at least enough to cover the cost. Pianos are usually shipped in very stout packing cases which are tin lined.

One of the leading music houses of Durban is pushing the sale of an English piano in oak case of medium size. The case is finished like the ordinary oak furniture in the United States, and not made very dark in fuming like most of the oak-finished furniture in South Africa. This may become a very attractive piano for halls and residences where the rest of the furniture is of oak.

[An article on musical instruments in the Johannesburg district was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 21, 1916. Two series of reports on foreign markets for musical instruments appeared in the issues of Sept. 16 and Oct. 27, 1916.]

PEANUT TRADE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Consul General George N. West, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 14.]

Practically all the peanuts consumed in British Columbia and adjoining territory are imported from Japan. While a small quantity of Virginia peanuts has been imported, none are in stock at present.

The duty on peanuts is covered by item No. 109 of the Canadian customs tariff, which reads as follows: "109. Nuts of all kinds, n. o. p., including shelled peanuts, per pound, British preferential tariff, 1 cent; intermediate tariff, 2 cents; general tariff, 2 cents." The general tariff covers shipments from the United States. Unshelled peanuts are apparently dutiable under the same item.

The section quoted is amended by the act of February 12, 1915, which provides for an additional duty of 5 per cent preferential tariff and 7½ per cent intermediate and general tariffs.

The trade consists of confectioners, retail stores, stands, and peanut-butter manufacturers, and is generally supplied by wholesale grocery houses or commission brokers. In some cases the larger confectioners and peanut-butter manufacturers purchase direct.

Freight Charges on Shipments of Peanuts.

The freight on peanuts from Japan to Vancouver is \$14.40 per ton of 2,000 pounds, not including 50 cents per ton wharfage at Vancouver. Shelled peanuts take a rate according to weight and unshelled according to measurement.

The price received for unshelled peanuts at present by the commission brokers from wholesalers and jobbers ranges from 5½ to 7 cents, the grade of peanuts principally sold being 6½ cents. The wholesale or jobbing price is from 8 to 9½ cents, the grade principally sold bringing 9 cents.

Shelled peanuts are sold by commission brokers to the wholesalers and jobbers and in large quantities to retailers at 8 to 9½ cents, and by the wholesalers and jobbers to the retailers at 11 to 13 cents. Unshelled peanuts are sold in 100-pound bags and shelled peanuts in 50-pound cases and 100-pound bags. They are sold to the trade green, and none are shelled locally. Virginia peanuts, when handled in this market, usually bring about 4 cents per pound more than the Japanese product.

Japanese Brokers in Strong Position.

Japanese brokers in Vancouver, to a certain extent, control this trade. They have some advantage in the fact that this class of freight is chiefly carried by Japanese vessels, and the companies give the Japanese brokers preference where there is a lack of cargo space. They carry large stocks in warehouse in this city for supplying the trade as far east as Montreal.

It is believed that on account of the freight rates agents handling peanuts grown in the United States can cover only the Canadian territory of British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, and Alaska.

It is estimated that the imports of peanuts into this city amount to about 9,000 sacks annually, of which 50 per cent is used in this Province and the Yukon territory.

An American commission broker, who gives as reference the Bank of Nova Scotia, this city, has expressed a desire to obtain the agency for the sale in this district of peanuts from the United States.

[Lists of dealers in peanuts at Vancouver may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81370. Among the number is the commission broker mentioned who desires an agency for the sale of peanuts from the United States.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of year.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Can- ada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.; until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany...	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay...	Dec. 1	Do.
Winalow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

FIRST CUBAN SHIP THROUGH PANAMA CANAL.

[Panama Canal Record, Oct. 25.]

The steamship *Jalisco*, flying the flag of Cuba, arrived at Cristobal on the morning of October 21 on a voyage which begins the service of the New York & Cuban Mail Steamship Co. between New York and Salina Cruz by way of Habana, the canal, and west coast of Central America. The ship brought 8 through passengers and 24 who disembarked at Cristobal and carried 1,540 tons of cargo. The *Jalisco* was the first Cuban ship to go through the canal.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South-
ern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Acid calcium phosphate, etc.	22987	Machinery	22983
Agency, general	22979	Methyl alcohol	22977
Asphalt shingles	22982	Novelties	22981
Boots and shoes	22981, 22984	Office appliances	22986
Caustic soda	22978	Paper	22978
Chemicals	22975	Pharmaceutical products	22975
Cigars and cigarettes	22981	Photographic materials	22983
Clinical supplies	22975	Plows, motor	22976
Coffee mills	22981	Rosin	22978
Cutlery	22981	Rubber goods	22975
Dyestuffs	22978	Shoe polish	22981
Gelatine	22978	Soda ash	22978
General merchandise	22979	Store fixtures	22981
Glue	22978	Tallow	22978
Haberdashery	22981	Thermometers, clinical	22975
Hardware	22981, 22985	Thread	22981
Hosiery	22986	Trunks	22981
Household and kitchen novelties	22986	Watches and clocks	22981
Lanterns	22981	Wax	22978, 22980

22975.*—A wholesale druggist in Spain is desirous of importing all classes of pharmaceutical and chemical products, clinical thermometers, rubber articles and general clinical supplies. Correspondence in English. References.

22976.*—A man in Argentina desires to represent an American manufacturer of small motor plows. Correspondence in English.

22977.†—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for methyl alcohol.

22978.†—The representative of a Japanese firm is in the United States for the purpose of making purchases of paper, rosin, caustic soda and soda ash, glue and gelatine, tallow for the manufacture of soap, wax, and dyestuffs.

22979.†—A man in France desires to represent American firms in any lines not requiring a technical training. References.

22980.*—A wholesale dealer in Spain is desirous of purchasing refined paraffin wax. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

22981.*—A wholesale establishment in East Africa wishes to receive catalogues on cheap grades of boots and shoes, shoe polish, cutlery, cigars and cigarettes, coffee mills (hand), haberdashery, lanterns, novelties, small hardware, store fixtures, steel trunks, spool thread, and watches and clocks.

22982.*—A firm in Canada desires to communicate with American manufacturers of asphalt shingles.

22983.†—A man in Mexico is in the market for machinery for making matches and toothpicks, and photographic materials of all kinds. Catalogues and price lists are desired. Catalogues, if possible, and correspondence should be in Spanish.

22984.*—A firm in Italy is in the market for fine shoes for women and children. Agency proposals are also desired. References. Correspondence in Italian.

22985.†—Catalogues and price lists, etc., of general hardware are desired by a firm in Central America.

22986.*—A firm in Australia desires to be put in communication with manufacturers of household novelties, ordinary kitchen novelties of a labor-saving nature, and also labor-saving devices for offices. The firm is also interested in hosiery.

22987.*—A firm in the United Kingdom is in the market for acid calcium phosphate and acid sodium phosphate, substitutes for cream of tartar for baking. References.

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 268 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, November 14 1916

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SUSPENSION OF BRITISH PROHIBITION ON HOSIERY.

[Cablegram from American Vice Consul, London, Nov. 11.]

The Board of Trade announces that the prohibition of the importation of cotton hosiery established October 3, 1916, is now suspended until January 1. The importation of cotton hosiery is permitted without license until that date.

MODIFICATION OF AUSTRALIAN WOOL EMBARGO.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Sydney, Nov. 13.]

The removal of the Australian embargo on burry wools destined for America is effective November 20.

DANISH EMBARGO ON CANNED VEGETABLES.

[Cablegram from American Consulate General, Copenhagen, Nov. 11.]

Vegetables, green, dried, and otherwise prepared, have been placed under export embargo in Denmark.

JAVA BANK PREDICTS USE OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE.

[Office of American Commercial Attaché, The Hague, Netherlands.]

The eighty-eighth annual report of the Java Bank covering the 1915-16 fiscal year has been issued. It calls attention to the fact as a large part of the Netherlands Indies products are being shipped directly to America it is more and more to be expected that European money centers, such as London or Amsterdam, will have less to do with the financing of these shipments. This is a prediction in favor of dollar exchange.

The report states that after the war the central powers may be expected to avail themselves of the credit the Netherlands will be able to place at their disposal.

The position of the Java Bank is excellent, for after certain writ-ings-off a dividend of 16 per cent has been paid for this fiscal year.

GERMAN PRODUCTION OF FRUIT.

[Consul George Nicolas Ifft, Stuttgart, Oct. 12; see also **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 30, 1916.]

Some interesting figures on the production of fruits in Germany have recently been made public. These figures are only approximate and are for an average normal year, but they are compiled from official sources and are as accurate as it is possible to make such approximation.

According to these figures the average annual fruit crop of Germany is about 55,725,000 hundredweight, of the average value of \$77,000,000. The apple crop holds first place with an average product of \$22,000,000, and currants have second place with a product worth about \$21,470,000 per year. Much smaller in value are the average annual crops of pears, prunes, mirabelle plums, sweet cherries, and gooseberries; these average from \$4,760,000 to \$7,100,000 each per year. A third group, which includes plums, greengages, sour cherries, and strawberries, range in value from \$715,000 to \$1,666,000 each. The fourth group contains quinces, peaches, apricots, medlars, service berries, raspberries, and table grapes, and the annual crops of each range between \$250,000 and \$715,000. Walnuts, mulberries, blackberries, and almonds fall below the \$250,000 mark, but still are factors of importance in the German fruit crop, as are also many wild berries of the forest, especially the bilberry, known in Germany as the heidelbeere.

As regards quantity, apples hold the first place with an average annual product of 18,612,000 hundredweight; currants come next with 8,272,000 hundredweight; then prunes, 7,700,000 hundredweight; and pears, 7,320,000 hundredweight. Figures of bulk here drop suddenly and next in order come sweet cherries with 2,134,000 hundredweight; gooseberries, 1,848,000 hundredweight; mirabelle plums, 1,248,000; sour cherries, 1,144,000; plums, 1,144,000; green gages, 1,000,000; walnuts, 832,000; and strawberries, 675,000 hundredweight.

To the home product must be added the import of fruits, in comparison with which the export is trifling. From the standpoint of value the excess of imports over exports in 1912 was \$25,700,000 and in 1913 it was \$31,270,000. The annual German consumption of fruits is thus between 65,000,000 and 75,000,000 hundredweight, of the value of between \$100,000,000 and \$110,000,000. This means about 100 pounds of fruit of all kinds per capita.

AMERICAN BANK IN VALPARAISO.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Oct. 4.]

El Mercurio of Valparaiso, in its morning edition of October 4, 1916, announces the opening of the Valparaiso branch of the National City Bank of New York on October 3, 1916.

The cash capital of the branch is stated as \$1,000,000. The manager is quoted as stating that the bank will engage in general banking operations, with special attention to facilitating trade between Chile and the United States. It will also compile trade and credit information, trade opportunities, etc., for the benefit of its customers in the United States and Chile.

TEN MONTHS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

The United States Bureau of Navigation reports 968 sailing, steam, gas, and unrigged vessels of 405,894 gross tons built in the United States and officially numbered during 10 months of the calendar year 1916, as follows:

Classes of ships.	Atlantic and Gulf.		Pacific.		Great Lakes.		Western rivers.		Total.	
	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.	No.	Gross.
WOOD.										
Sailing	39	9,781	6	3,903					45	13,684
Steam	31	3,035	12	5,696	9	517	10	567	52	9,815
Gas	192	5,534	154	8,377	26	459	87	1,526	459	15,896
Unrigged	180	59,717	73	8,287	31	4,161	24	878	308	73,043
Total	432	78,067	245	26,263	66	5,137	121	2,971	864	112,438
METAL.										
Sailing	1	562			1	2,320			2	2,882
Steam	44	162,115	7	48,103	21	64,038	4	£87	76	274,343
Gas	5	3,772	1	213	4	5,856	3	1,500	13	11,341
Unrigged	7	2,758			4	1,608	2	24	13	4,390
Total	57	169,207	8	48,316	30	73,822	9	2,111	104	293,456
General totals:										
Sailing	40	10,343	6	3,903	1	2,320			47	16,566
Steam	65	166,150	19	53,799	26	64,555	14	1,154	124	284,658
Gas	197	9,306	155	8,590	34	6,315	90	3,026	476	27,237
Unrigged	187	62,475	73	8,287	35	5,769	26	902	321	77,433
Grand total	489	247,274	253	74,579	96	78,959	130	5,062	968	405,894

In addition to the ships enumerated, there were built for foreigners 36 wooden vessels of 372 gross tons and 11 steel vessels of 25,418 gross tons, total, 47 vessels of 25,790 gross ton.

COTTON EXPORTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending November 11, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia	14,414	Philadelphia	2,689	San Francisco	8,522
Massachusetts	4,869	South Carolina		Washington	7,359
Maryland	11,348	Virginia	4,766		
New York	22,404	Galveston	77,504	Total	188,307
North Carolina	7,002	New Orleans	27,730		

The exports of 188,307 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 2,152,597 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 154,093 bales for the week and 1,520,223 bales in the cotton year.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

According to a cablegram received from Consul Arthur Garrels, at Alexandria, the 1916-17 cotton crop of Egypt is estimated at 585,000,000 pounds.

CHANGES IN AMERICAN BEET-SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Russia now occupies the chief position as the source of sugar-beet seeds for the United States. Before the war a very large proportion of these seeds came from Germany. A greatly increased total of purchases is shown by figures compiled for the nine months ended September 30, 1916, by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Record-breaking imports foreshadow great activity in the sugar-beet industry in this country.

For the nine months mentioned the imports of seed reached a total of 18,500,000 pounds, which is 1,000,000 pounds more than were imported during the complete calendar years 1913 and 1914, and nearly double those for the full year 1912.

In the fiscal year 1914 Germany supplied nearly 9,000,000 pounds out of a total of 10,250,000 pounds, the remainder coming chiefly from Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Holland. In the fiscal year 1916 Russia supplied 5,881,946 pounds out of a total of 9,042,490 pounds. Imports of beet seed into the United States for the calendar years 1911 to 1916 were as follows:

Years.	Pounds.	Years.	Pounds.
1911.....	11,025,531	1914.....	17,557,062
1912.....	9,854,894	1915.....	4,022,022
1913.....	17,644,721	1916 (9 months).....	18,474,993

It is an interesting fact that exports of refined sugar in the first nine months of 1916 totaled 1,388,650,984 pounds, or nearly 50 per cent more than during the whole calendar year 1915, $3\frac{1}{2}$ times more than in 1914, and 26 times more than in 1913.

TO SELECT MEN FOR STUDY OF FOREIGN MARKETS.

Markets for American goods in many countries are to be studied by men to be selected as a result of an examination which is to be given in the principal cities of the country by the United States Civil Service Commission on December 6. The persons chosen are to act as trade commissioners and special agents for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Their work is considered an important step in preparing the country to retain and expand its newly won foreign markets.

Ten appointments are to be made for the following investigations: Motor vehicles in Russia and the Far East; investment opportunities in Russia; fancy groceries in South America; furniture in South America; metal-working machinery and prime movers in Russia; metal-working machinery and prime movers in Brazil; jewelry and silverware in South America; hardware in Africa, the Near East, and India; ports and transportation facilities in Russia and the Far East; and mineral resources in the Far East.

To Prepare Reports for American Exporters.

The duties of appointees to these positions will be to obtain information concerning the demand in foreign markets for the particular commercial lines they are to study, and to present the data obtained in straightforward, readable reports, which will enable American manufacturers and exporters to plan campaigns for the sale of

goods in the markets investigated. Applicants for the South American investigations will be expected to know Spanish, and extra credit will be given for Portuguese. For work in Brazil Portuguese is considered especially desirable. In the investigations including Russia, French is required, and an extra credit is given for Russian. No foreign language is required for the hardware investigation in Africa, the Near East, and India, or for the investigation of mineral resources in the Far East. No person will be admitted to any of these examinations who has not had previous training which would qualify him as an expert in the particular line to be investigated. This means substantial and responsible experience. An oral test will be given at Washington or some other city before final appointments are made, and only those who pass successfully the written examination on December 6 will be asked to present themselves.

The Bureau will pay each of these men a salary not to exceed \$10 a day, with all transportation expenses paid and \$4 a day extra for subsistence. Persons who meet the requirements and desire this examination should at once apply for Form 375, stating the title of the examination for which the form is desired, to the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.; the secretary of the United States Civil Service Board, post office, Boston, Mass., Philadelphia, Pa., Atlanta, Ga., Cincinnati, Ohio, Chicago, Ill., St. Paul, Minn., Seattle, Wash., San Francisco, Cal.; customhouse, New York, N. Y., New Orleans, La., or old customhouse, St. Louis, Mo. Applications should be properly executed and filed with the commission at Washington in time to arrange for the examination.

SOCIETY ISLANDS' FIRST BREWERY.

[Consul Thomas B. L. Layton, Tahiti.]

Messrs. F. Vernaudeon and J. Stergios, manufacturers of ice and of soft drinks in Papeete, are erecting the Society Islands' first brewery. The material used in the construction of the building is largely American, and the machinery and equipment for a modern plant of 15 barrels (472 gallons) daily capacity are of American manufacture. The ice-making and bottling machinery already in use, and of French manufacture, will form part of the new plant. The brewing machinery and equipment cost \$4,800, the building will cost \$12,000, and the present value of the old ice and bottling plant is estimated at \$2,000.

Interested in the enterprise with Messrs. Vernaudeon and Stergios are Alexander Stergios (a brother of J. Stergios), a naturalized American citizen living at Los Angeles, Cal., and A. C. Pollner, of Allegheny, Pa. The latter, a practical brewer, is here supervising the erection of the plant and will remain as manager.

Appropriation for Chilean Navy.

The Chilean Congress has recently passed a law authorizing the expenditure of 1,000,000 pesos gold (\$365,000) in the repair of vessels of the national navy. This law, signed by the President and published in the *Diario Oficial* of September 23, states that the required sum will be taken from the revenues made on the commercial voyages of the transports.

SURVEY OF FISHING GROUNDS ON PACIFIC COAST.

A report on the survey of the fishing grounds on the coasts of Washington and Oregon in 1915 has been published by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. Systematic work by the bureau was undertaken as the culmination of a series of desultory fishing trials which had been made in that area since 1885.

An important investigation of the fishing grounds had been made in 1914. The greater part of the 1914 work was confined to the region between Heceta Bank and the Columbia River, although some time was given to the sections off Grays Harbor and Coos Bay. That investigation developed the existence of a nice run of halibut during a period of at least two months on a bank having an area of approximately 250 square miles, off Newport, Oreg. The run attained its maximum in August and September, but fish were present in June and July. A profitable fishery probably could be conducted at that time, and at certain places might possibly be engaged in as early as the latter part of April. Irrespective of the abundance of fish, however, the weather conditions and lack of shelter will restrict fishing to the period from April to September. In 1914 this run yielded commercial catches totaling over 850,000 pounds of halibut in 21 trips, for which \$23,646 was received by the fishermen. Average trips of 40,000 pounds were caught in four days or less, the fish averaging 27 pounds in weight.

Good or Favorable Halibut Bottom Found.

In 1915 the work of the bureau was conducted with the special object of determining the correctness of rumors that had been current among the fishermen of Seattle for many years that there existed, 200 or 300 miles off the Washington coast, banks from which large schools of halibut came every spring.

Along the edge of the continental shelf, in depths from 80 or 90 to 120 fathoms, good or favorable halibut bottom was found in many small patches. Between Grays Harbor and Flattery Bank these patches are more numerous than in the region south of the Columbia River. South of Tillamook Bay there are very few spots of good bottom. These patches do not hold the schools of fish for any length of time, and the largest of them can be cleared of halibut in a few trips by the fishing fleet.

In the region under consideration the schools of halibut appear to arrive at the banks from a westerly or northwesterly direction, and this, taken into consideration with the rumors of shoal water offshore, would seem to indicate the possible presence of banks farther out to sea than any now known. The discovery of Gibson Bank would seem to lend support to such a belief. The bureau states that it is desirable that a thorough survey be made.

Black cod occur in great numbers along the coast of Washington and should support a large fishery if a demand can be created for this species. Rock cod should also be marketed. Grayfish occur in large numbers and might be utilized as fertilizer. The smaller flatfishes, flounders, sole, sand dab, etc., are also found in great abundance.

Copies of the "Survey of the Fishing Grounds on the Coasts of Washington and Oregon in 1915" may be obtained at 15 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

GOOD RESULTS OF TRADE-JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 11.]

One of the large New Zealand department stores, to which the Auckland consulate general has been forwarding certain American trade journals, recently wrote: "Please accept our best thanks for American trade journals which you so kindly sent us. They are of great interest to us and in many cases have led to the opening up of new business with American firms." In this connection it might be well to state that great care is taken in the distribution of these journals, and that the foregoing letter is only one of many telling of the good work these publications accomplish. It might be possible to increase the number handled through this office if American publishers could see their way clear to supply them gratis.

Arrangements have been made with the Auckland Public Library to place in the reading room connected with that institution 16 American trade and industrial publications received at this consulate general. The librarian has had a separate case prepared to hold them and has installed it in a prominent location. Upon accepting the librarian's invitation to inspect the case I was informed that the American journals were well received, and that the first day after the publications were placed in the case all of them had been taken out, and nearly all of them were then in the hands of persons studying them. Affixed to each publication on file in the public library is a slip reading: "Late issues of this journal may be consulted in the reading room connected with the American consulate general, Union Buildings, Custom Street East, Auckland, New Zealand." This seems to be having a good effect, for the trade papers on file in the consulate general are being consulted more and more frequently.

APPLE CROP IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 4.]

The following is a summary of statements made by a prominent fruit grower in this Province:

Apples have been a medium crop and prices fairly good. One of the greatest advantages of raising fruit in New Brunswick is thought to be that of the climate along the Canadian Atlantic coast Provinces. Apples raised in New Brunswick have a high color and singular beauty of appearance. With plenty of suitable land to be had at moderate cost, cheap and rapid transportation, and an over-seas market close at hand, fruit growers have reason to be encouraged in their work.

However, the lack of proper transportation at a time when the fall varieties of apples should be marketed—in October and November—has prevented further development of the market for apples in Europe. Growers are urged to give special attention to the sale of their product in Western Canada, where purchases of apples are now made largely from the United States.

Consul W. E. Alger, of Fernie, British Columbia, reports that the declared exports from his district to the United States during October totaled \$364,636. He adds: "It is of interest to note that 160 tons of potatoes, valued at \$3,118, and 91,000 pounds of wheat, valued at \$1,767, were among the Canadian articles shipped."

THE PEANUT INDUSTRY OF SOUTH INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

The peanut, or groundnut (*Arachis hypogea*), although grown in places all over India as a garden and even an occasional field crop, is produced on a commercial scale only in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, in Burma, and in that part of French India (Pondicherry) that adjoins Madras. Cultivation in Bombay may be said to be confined to the Deccan and the Karnatak, with Sholapur and Satara, lying just north of the Madras Presidency, as the most important districts.

According to the latest official figures for the 1915-16 peanut crop the total area in British India is 1,935,000 acres, as compared with 2,413,000 acres in 1914-15, and the total yield for 1915-16 is estimated at 1,011,000 tons of nuts in shell, as against 947,000 tons for the preceding year. The area in the Madras Presidency is 1,441,000 acres, and the estimated yield 633,000 tons of nuts in shell; in the Bombay Presidency, 232,000 acres, with a yield of 275,000 tons; and in Burma, 262,000 acres, and 103,000 tons.

Exports from Madras Presidency and Pondicherry.

Exports from ports in the Madras Presidency totaled 197,300 tons in 1913-14, 115,200 tons in 1914-15, and 151,236 tons in 1915-16, the average prices per hundredweight of 112 pounds at Madras in the respective years being \$2.92, \$1.71, and \$2.54. Madras, with 75,636 tons valued at \$3,586,611, was the principal port of shipment in 1915-16; other ports of importance in the Presidency were Cuddalore, from which the exports were 42,923 tons valued at \$1,823,315; Negapatam, 19,805 tons valued at \$982,060; and Porto Nova, 12,476 tons valued at \$550,563. Four-fifths of the total exports were consigned to Marseille, the remainder going mainly to Calcutta, Burma, the Straits Settlements, and Ceylon. Practically all the exports to Europe are of hulled seed.

In addition to that exported from the ports in the Presidency, a large quantity of the product grown in the Madras area is shipped from the French seaport Pondicherry, 150 miles south of Madras on the Coromandel Coast. The industry in India is said to partly owe its origin to this French colony, which apparently began to cultivate the peanut on a large commercial scale at the suggestion of soap manufacturers in Marseille. As the Pondicherry settlement is small in area, 113 miles in all, the output of peanuts is not considerable in comparison with the adjoining British Provinces, part of whose crops thus find a ready market close at hand.

At first Pondicherry was practically the only port in India that exported peanuts, but now Madras, Bombay, and the other ports previously mentioned rival it in importance. Madras has lately greatly increased its share of the traffic as the result of its improved railroad connections with producing districts in the Deccan, and by reason of the facilities provided by the Port Trust of Madras for the storage and drying of the product in harbor warehouses and for quick and cheap handling between sheds and steamers. Exports from Pondicherry in 1915-16 amounted to 42,238 tons—475,000 bags of 166 pounds of kernels and 94,000 bags of peanuts in the husk.

In 1880, when the export trade in peanuts was first becoming important in Pondicherry, the total number of bags shipped was 238,780.

Inquiries from United States—Trade of Bombay and Burma.

Thus far there have been no exports of peanuts to the United States from South India, but in recent months several firms dealing in oil seeds in the United States have requested information from the consulate concerning the possibility of obtaining some of the produce, as well as of the oil-seed cake, but the high freights have been an obstacle.

Exports of peanuts from Bombay to foreign countries in the fiscal year 1913-14 were 53,700 tons, with an average price per hundredweight (112 pounds) of \$3.19; in 1914-15, 21,000 tons, at an average price of \$2.33 per hundredweight; and in 1915-16, 10,200 tons, at \$2.33 per hundredweight. The contraction in the area cultivated in the Bombay Presidency in the past year is attributed to the late rains and to the low prices realized on the preceding crop. Spanish and Japanese seeds are reported to be gaining preference everywhere in the Presidency.

Shipments from Burma in 1913-14 totaled 26,900 tons, the average price per hundredweight at Rangoon being \$2.27; in 1914-15, 1,900 tons were exported, the price averaging \$2.25. The figures for the Burma exports in 1915-1916 are not available, but the average price at Rangoon for the new crop is \$1.96. The decrease in area in Burma is attributed to an unsatisfactory rainfall, notably in Myingyan and Magwe, but the estimated total yield is greater this year.

The Peanut Crop in Madras.

The peanut crop is now a profitable one in the Madras Presidency, but it has gone through precarious times as the result of the use of inferior seed by the cultivators, the deterioration of the crop by too frequent use of the land with consequent exhaustion of the soil, the attacks of fungoid disease or pests, the irregularity in the water supply, and finally, although not the least important from the commercial side, the deleterious methods in preparing the kernels for the market. The agricultural authorities and commercial interests have been endeavoring to effect improvements, and a good deal of progress has no doubt been made in some directions. As regards the quality and outturn of the crop, officers of the Department of Agriculture, after investigating various methods of cultivation, have published the results with recommendations for the farmers.

The Indian peanut originally was grown as an edible nut, but the great importance of the crop in South India now is due entirely to the growth of the seed-crushing industry both locally and abroad, and all efforts to improve the stock are with the view of increasing its oil-yielding property. The peanut now chiefly grown in the Presidency is known as the "Mauritius" variety.

Percentage of Oil from Certain Peanuts.

A United States consular report, published in April, 1894, gave the percentage of the oil in the several varieties of peanuts grown in various parts of the world as follows: Senegal, 51; East Africa, 49; America, 42; and Madras, 43. In 1914 a report published by the Madras Department of Agriculture stated that the so-called Mauri-

tius nut, grown as a rain-fed crop on the Government farm at Palur, Madras Presidency, yielded 49.84 per cent of oil of good quality, and that with ordinary careful cultivation this standard could generally be maintained wherever local conditions were suitable for peanut growing. Local Mauritius is especially favored because of the high percentage of kernel it possesses. The department, however, is experimenting with 13 different varieties and some of them, especially a Barbados variety and a West African, are said to be promising. For over a period of three years the West African nut on unirrigated land has given an average yield of 505 pounds of oil per acre, but on irrigated land the Mauritius variety is still ahead with an average of 950 pounds, West African coming third with 877 pounds. In case of need, or if the authorities consider that improvements will be effected thereby, the seed found to be the most suitable will be distributed to the farmers. Meanwhile the farmers are being assisted generally with advice and supervision of methods upon request.

Methods of Cultivation.

The Mauritius variety of peanut grown in Madras takes from five to six months to come to maturity. The best soil is said to be ash colored, absorptive, and fairly retentive of moisture. The nut, however, is most generally grown on the more prevalent red sandy loams, but the opinion prevails that the darker the soil the darker the nut and the less desirable for seed purposes. In India, it is stated, experience has shown that a light colored soil gives a light colored pod and thus improves the selling value as an article of food, although equally sound and well flavored nuts may be produced on other soils. Salt soils are unsuited, although stony soils rich in sand, if well manured, may yield a highly profitable return, while clayey soils are quite unsuited. In South Arcot the peanut displaced indigo, as it was more profitable. In the majority of cases in South Arcot the crop is sown in a standing crop of cumbu, ragi, or other cereal, when the latter is being hand hoed. In places where the crop has been recently introduced and plenty of good manure is available, it is cultivated year after year on the same land or only with an intervening crop at intervals of four or five years, while in some villages of the Shiyali taluk district) it is cultivated without intermission. In the neighborhood of Panruti the crop is changed once in four or five years. The most popular rotation of the peanut crop is with the cereal "varagu."

Seasons Vary with the District.

Seasons of sowing and reaping of the crop vary with the district and depend on whether it is grown on dry or irrigated lands. Some districts get light rains during the southwest monsoon, but expect their season rain in October–December during the northeast monsoon. Here sowing is done in the end of July or beginning of August. In other districts showers are experienced in April and May, while the season's rain occurs with the southwest monsoon from June to September. In this case sowing is done as soon as a sowing rain falls in April or May. Farmers therefore must decide for themselves whether the rainfall is suitable and if so what is the best

time for sowing. During the first two or three months of the crop's growth very little moisture is required; the plant can withstand considerable drought until it starts to flower and form its nuts. Peanuts as a dry irrigated crop are now extensively grown in the South Arcot district during the hot weather months, and cultivation on irrigated lands appears to be extending in this as well as in other districts. The principal market season in Madras is from January to March.

Demand for Cheap Shelling Machines—Decortivating Methods.

On behalf of American manufacturers of machinery and implements suitable for peanut planting the consulate made inquiry of the Madras Department of Agriculture regarding the opportunity for the introduction of these implements, but was informed that in this country of cheap labor and small holdings there was no great prospect of the use of mechanical planters to any great extent. The Director stated however, that the chief mechanical requirement of the Department in connection with the peanut crop is a good and cheap shelling machine. He would always be glad, he said, to receive information from the consulate as to any machines that had proved successful in America. American manufacturers interested should address the Director of Agriculture, Madras, India.

[A list of the firms, etc., in South India that would likely be interested in peanut-shelling machines may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file 79697.]

In its efforts to improve the methods of decortication the Madras Department of Agriculture is receiving the active cooperation of European commercial firms, importers of the Madras nuts, who are naturally desirous for a reputation for excellence in foreign markets.

The chief faults from which the crop has especially suffered are the shelling of the nuts by beating the pods with a stick in preparation for which process they are usually wetted with water, and adulteration by the middlemen. The authorities are convinced that machine decortication would not only produce cleaner and purer kernels but would lessen the possibility of adulteration. A few oil-driven engines for decortication have already been introduced in various districts, but, as a rule, these are used only by well-to-do planters—the greatest opening for trade is in a small and cheap machine of a satisfactory type. About 75 per cent of the crops at present is treated by the wet process, the remainder being decorticated in the dry state by machinery.

Kernels Obtained by Wet Process of Less Commercial Value.

As evidence of the superior commercial value of the latter the head of a large local firm stated that he had paid as much as \$12 per candy (529 pounds) for clean, sweet, wholesome kernels decorticated by machinery, when he could get kernels decorticated by the wet process by hand labor for \$10.06.

In illustrating the advantage of the machinery system, the chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce in a recent address before an agricultural conference at Coimbatore, said that the average annual value of the exports from this Presidency over the four years ending with 1916 was nearly \$12,977,000, of which about three-fourths

represented the value of kernels decorticated by the wet process. Had these been decorticated by machinery the extra return to the native farmers, according to his statement, would have been about \$1,946,600, or \$7,786,400 for the four years, the greater part of which would have gone into the pockets of the cultivators. In the wet process, he said, the kernels get damp, and long before they reach the crushing mills some are discolored, and the quality of the oil is sometimes impaired.

The Peanut-Oil Industry.

Although, as previously stated, the Madras crop owes its chief commercial value to the fact that a large part of it is bought for the French market, yet a good portion of the seeds are used in expressing oil in the local native mills. This industry, which appears to be increasing, is being encouraged by the authorities with a view to accustoming the people of the country to put their raw material through as many processes of manufacture themselves as they have facilities for. The bulk of the Indian manufacture of peanut oil is in the hands of the owners of ordinary native pestle-and-mortar pattern rotary mills. At Valavapur there are said to be 70 such mills, at Panruti 200 mills, and at Pondicherry there were formerly 200 mills.

Mills of European pattern were tried at Pondicherry and at Cuddalore, but it was found they could not compete successfully with the native mills. It is said that the oil expressed in the first pressing by the European mills was good, but that that obtained from the second pressing was dark, and consequently rejected in the European markets. The cake being dry, wanting in oil, and powdery, was also rejected. So economically are the oil mills worked in Marseille that peanut oil is cheaper in France than it is in South Arcot, a standard price in Marseille prior to the war being 45 francs (\$8.69) per 100 kilos (220 pounds), that is, \$22.71 per French candy of 529 pounds, whereas in Pondicherry it was \$25.95 per French candy. It is commonly estimated that 1 hundredweight of dry kernels will yield about 5 gallons of oil. The seed produced on unirrigated land is more oily than that raised on irrigated land.

Exports from Madras—Uses of Peanut Oil.

In 1915-16 shipments of peanut oil from Madras ports were 262,641 gallons valued at \$135,613. One of the chief markets for the South Indian peanut oil is Burma. Last year a considerable quantity went to Italy. Exports of oil to Calcutta have fallen off, as a result of the opening of oil mills there, but the traffic in the nuts has correspondingly increased. Locally the oil is extensively used in cookery. As an illuminant it is now recognized as having but a feeble power. It is sometimes employed for adulteration of gingeli (sesame) oil and coconut oil. The oil is also used in tanning leather. At Panruti and near Pondicherry, as also in Europe, it is employed in the preparation of a red dye from the *Morinda citrifolia*. The oil cake, the residue of the seeds after pressing, is largely used by native farmers as a cattle food and as a manure for paddy, sugar cane, and plantains. In France, where the oil-pressing industry is highly developed, the oil is used as a salad oil, for cooking purposes, in canning sardines, in the preparation of margarine, and in the manufacture of white soap.

SUBVENTION FOR PACKING PLANTS IN COLOMBIA.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla.]

The Colombian Congress passed a law on September 15, 1916, providing for the payment of a subvention to packing houses that may be established on the Atlantic or Pacific coast of Colombia. The subvention is offered in the form of interest at 4 per cent annually on the capital invested in buildings and machinery, to be paid for a period of four years, this interest being guaranteed by the Government up to the amount of \$500,000. Packers must furnish the Government complete plans of their plants, including costs, to be used as a basis in the calculation of the subvention. The interest will be computed from the date on which the packing houses begin operations, this date to be within four years of the date of the passage of this law.

In addition to the payment of a subvention to packers, the Government will establish bacteriological laboratories on the coast and in the interior cattle-raising districts of Colombia for the purpose of making a study of the regional diseases of cattle and of preparing vaccines, serums, and other remedies. The results of the laboratory investigations will be published in bulletins which will be distributed to cattle raisers and packers. The remedies prepared by the laboratories will be sold at cost. For the maintenance of the laboratories, packers will pay a tax of \$1 per head on all cows and heifers slaughtered during the first five years of the operation of their plants. The annual budgets of Colombia for 1917 and succeeding years will contain appropriations up to \$30,000 for the packing-house subvention. There are no packing houses now in Colombia, and this law is the second passed within a year to stimulate the cattle industry, which, it is believed, offers a field for great development. An American packing company investigated the field last year, but decided that at present the annual surplus of cattle over domestic needs would not warrant the construction of a large plant.

[Exemptions from import and export duties were promised to packing houses in a Colombian law noted in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 6, 1916.]

Market for Oar Wood and Red-Gum Lumber.

Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, of Barcelona, transmits the names of two Spanish inquirers who are seeking supplies of wood, the one desiring wood for making oars, the other wishing to purchase red-gum lumber. Their addresses may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80995.

House Flag and Funnel Marks Registered.

The United States Bureau of Navigation announces the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of a house flag and funnel marks of the following characteristics by W. R. Grace & Co., of San Francisco, Cal.: House flag, a red field with a white diamond in center with the name "Grace" in blue letters thereon; funnel marks, top black, bottom green, with white band near top.

OBSTACLES TO DIRECT DEALINGS WITH CHINESE.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Sept. 15.]

An American commercial traveler, who for three years has represented in China an important watch-manufacturing company and its subsidiaries, has been acting under instructions to deal as far as possible direct with Chinese retail merchants, but is pessimistic regarding the prospects of such direct trade. Prior to coming to China he had an experience of some years in commercial life in the Philippines, and he seemed to be in a position to speak with some authority on the subject.

He emphasizes as obstacles several facts—the desire of Chinese merchants to select from stock rather than to buy from catalogue or sample, the readiness of customers to refuse shipments on trivial excuses if the market has turned against them in the interval, and the difficulty in enforcing payment against Chinese customers. He admits that the tendency is toward such direct dealings, but does not believe they are to be encouraged in the immediate future.

Criticism Deserving of Consideration.

In weighing the value of this criticism some account must of course be taken both of the possibility that this particular agent did not meet Chinese conditions effectively, and of the fact that while the demand for his line is undoubtedly increasing among all classes of Chinese at all able to afford such luxuries, it can not in the nature of things be extremely extensive in this country. When all due weight has been given to these considerations, however, probably force enough still remains in what he says to make it worth while to call his representations to the attention of those who perhaps may be inclined to adopt with a little too much zeal the suggestions that have been published recently regarding the necessity of foreign merchants and the representatives of foreign manufacturers in China getting closer to their customers, and learning to do without the time-honored assistance of the comprador.

Men Should be Trained on the Ground.

It can hardly be doubted that a tendency to this end is to be observed, and that, in the severe competition among the foreign importers of various nationalities in China during the past 10 years, those who have taken account of this tendency—particularly the Germans, and more recently the Japanese—have made the greatest progress. It is not wise, however, to attempt to go too rapidly, especially until better provision has been made for the training of representatives of American concerns on the ground. With the unfamiliar business methods of the Chinese, the comparatively limited market for any one of most lines with the exception of the great staple imports, and the extreme complexities of exchange, the comprador still has a legitimate place, and at present study and preparation are probably more necessary than attempts to displace him.

[An article on the Chinese middleman and trade in China was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 3, 1916. British and German trade methods in China were described in the issue of Feb. 7, 1916.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Chum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany...	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Wilrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

GROCERIES FOR FAR EAST SHOULD BE TINNED.

[Consul A. A. Williamson, Dairen, Manchuria, Oct. 4.]

As regards the Darien trade in foreign groceries, the determining factor in placing an order is very frequently the style of package used by the manufacturer. "Are the goods tinned?" is the first question asked. The reason is that commodities packed in tins remain fresh until used, and a stock of goods may be laid in without fear of spoiling from mold, etc. Almost all of the crackers (called "biscuits") on sale in the Darien district are English, and they come in tins. Candies also are packed in special tin packages.

The tinning of provisions is a point insisted on by older foreign residents in the East, and the longer the residence the greater the insistence.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DATTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency, general	22990	Machinery, dish washing	22997
Asphalt	22992	Machinery, fruit peeling, etc	22995
Blankets, cotton	22999	Machinery, glue manufacture	22995
Camphor	22991	Machinery, spinning and weaving	22996
Dry goods	22988	Paper	22999
Fruits	22999	Petroleum	22992
General merchandise	22989	Photograph frames	22993
Hardware	23000	Roofing slate	22998
Household appliances	22997	Textiles	22999
Knife sharpeners	22997	Tobacco, leaf	22994
Lanterns	22994	Tools	23000
Leather	22999	Vacuum cleaners	22997
Machinery, butter making	22995	Watches	22994
Machinery, coffee	22995		

22988.*—A firm in Venezuela desires to represent an American export jobber dealing exclusively in dry goods. A firm already engaged in South American trade preferred. Correspondence in English. Reference.

22980.†—A Spanish firm with headquarters in Spain and connections in France and Italy contemplates establishing a purchasing agency in New York City for general merchandise. The representation of additional American firms in Spain is desired. References. Correspondence in English.

22990.*—An established firm in South Africa wishes to enter into commercial relations with two or three American manufacturers producing standard articles suitable for the South African trade. Exclusive agencies for two or three well-known and practical lines rather than miscellaneous agencies are desired.

22991.‡—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for synthetic camphor.

22992.‡—A company in Chile is in the market for crude petroleum in wood barrels, and asphalt amounting to about 35 tons per month. Correspondence in Spanish.

22993.*—A firm in the United Kingdom desires to purchase nickel or nickel-plated photograph frames of small and medium sizes. The cheaper grades preferred. Samples and delivered quotations should be sent. Gross lots desired as an initial order. All samples will be paid for or returned. References.

22994.*—A firm in West Africa desires catalogues, with prices, etc., in English or French, of lanterns, cheap watches, and leaf tobacco.

22995.‡—A firm in Bolivia wishes to receive catalogues of machinery for shelling and grinding coffee, making butter, seeding fruits (peaches, etc.), peeling fruits, and machinery for the manufacture of glue for use in cabinetmaking and carpenter shops. Catalogues, if possible, and correspondence, in Spanish.

22996.†—A construction engineer in France desires to represent American manufacturers of spinning and weaving machinery. Reference.

22997.*—An American in New Zealand desires to get into communication with American manufacturers of labor-saving devices, machines, implements, etc., for household use, such as automatic dish-washing machines, contrivances for cleaning and sharpening table knives, medium-priced vacuum cleaners, and similar articles.

22998.*—A firm in Canada wishes to get in touch with dealers in roofing slate.

22999.*—A manufacturers' agent in Argentina desires to represent American exporters of dried, fresh, and canned fruits; cotton blankets, and textiles in general; paper of all kinds, including wall paper; and leather. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23000.*—A firm in Spain desires to represent American manufacturers of tools and shelf and builders' hardware. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

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No. 1269 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 15 1916

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RELAXATION OF FRENCH EMBARGO DECREE.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Paris, Nov. 13.]

An order of November 11 abrogates the prohibition of exportation of carbon tetrachloride. [Carbon tetrachloride was included among articles placed under embargo by a decree of Oct. 26, published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 30.]

INSPECTION OF PHILIPPINE HEMP.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands, dated November 13, advising that during the month of October Philippine government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 86,255 bales abaca and 8,339 bales maguey, as follows: Abaca—A, 428; B, 811; C, 1,748; D, 2,058; E, 5,256; S1, 674; S2, 1,627; S3, 828; F, 9,912; G, 2,698; H, 1,608; I, 9,198; J, 15,304; K, 5,721; L, 14,696; M, 4,020; DL, 5,669; DM, 1,927; strings, etc., 2,072. Maguey—1, 609; 2, 4,684; 3, 2,659; D, 387.

SWISS AUTHORITIES SELL FOOD AT REDUCED PRICES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 20.]

On account of the constantly increasing cost of living the municipal authorities of Berne are making arrangements to supply, for the coming winter, at reduced prices, food products (especially potatoes) to all families with incomes less than 3,000 francs (\$579) per annum. Families already receiving gratuitously food supplies from the city will be excluded from these privileges.

Potato prices for the week ending October 21, 1916, were fixed at 0.80 franc per 5 liters, equivalent to 15.4 cents for 8 pounds or 1.75 cents a pound. The sale of potatoes at this price, which is below the market rate, is made under the control of the police and at stated hours and places only. Owing to the failure of the Swiss potato crop and the absence of foreign offers potatoes are now obtainable at Berne but twice a week and then in 5-liter lots only.

JAPANESE BANKS BEGIN OVERSEAS OPERATIONS.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Sept. 25.]

Some of the leading banks of Japan have begun overseas operations. Among these, says the Japan Mail, the Sumitomo Bank has not only opened exchange transactions as agent for the International Banking Corporation, but has established branches at San Francisco and Hawaii. In China, too, the bank will shortly open branches along the Yangtse to conduct exchange transactions in silver.

The newspaper also states that the Thirty-fourth Bank of Osaka has begun exchange transactions as agent for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. The Yamaguchi and the Kashima banks are contemplating exchange business. The Mitsubishi Co.'s banking department has already established a branch office in London as a step to the opening of exchange between London and this country. It is a settled arrangement that the Mitsui Bank will open a banking house in Shanghai to handle exchanges in silver. This bank also contemplates the opening of branches in America and Europe, where already investigations are being carried out by its agents.

Yokohama Specie Bank's Semiannual Report.

The Yokohama Specie Bank (Ltd.), in its report for the half year ended June 30, 1916, announces the gross profits of the bank as 24,761,465 yen (\$12,343,590), which includes 1,336,716 yen (\$666,353) brought forward from the last account. From this sum 21,124,009 yen (\$10,530,318) has been deducted for interest, taxes, current expenses, etc., leaving a balance of 3,637,455 yen (\$1,813,271) for appropriation.

The addition to the reserve fund amounts to 400,000 yen (\$199,400), thereby increasing that fund to 20,800,000 yen (\$10,368,800), and a declared dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum will absorb 1,800,000 yen (\$897,300). The balance, 1,437,455 yen (\$716,571), will be carried forward to the next account.

The capital of the bank is now 48,000,000 yen (\$23,928,000), of which 30,000,000 yen (\$14,955,000) is paid up.

[An article on Japan's increased gold holdings was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 19, 1916.]

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended November 11:

Markets for American Hardware in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay (Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau, Miscellaneous Series 43).—A complete index to the requirements of American manufacturers who seek the extension of their hardware trade to the territory described. Price, 10 cents.

Saccharimetric Normal Weight and Specific Rotation of Dextrose (Standards Bureau Scientific Paper 293).—Data obtained from studies of dextrose, important because of its wide distribution and nature and its commercial utility. Price, 10 cents.

Liquid-Measuring Pumps (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 81).—Outlines the principal points of interest to the inspector of weights and measures relative to the design, construction, inspection, testing, and supervision of measuring pumps. Price, 15 cents.

AGENTS' COMMISSIONS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 11.]

The following extract from a letter received from an Auckland manufacturers' agent and importer at whose request a "Trade Opportunity" was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* last June gives a fair idea of the conditions under which New Zealand business houses expect to represent American interests in this field:

As to results from the "Trade Opportunity" transmitted in my behalf, nothing definite has been arranged so far, but I am in receipt of several communications to which I have replied and from which it is likely some business connections will be established as soon as one point is adjusted. This relates to commissions, which I want paid to me on all business done by the firms I represent, whether I directly send in the order or not. Many of my clients here have been accustomed to place their orders through brokers, and business that is really the result of my work may thus reach the American manufacturer through a broker instead of through me. If the United States firm has no New Zealand customers when I accept the agency, then I feel that all results here should be credited to me.

This matter of commissions on all business done in New Zealand is quite important, especially where the representatives are supposed to cover the whole Dominion—which can be done very easily since New Zealand is only about the size of California. It can readily be understood how discouraging it is for a firm to work up business in New Zealand and go to considerable expense to introduce a line of goods, and then have importers here correspond direct with the American manufacturer in the hope of getting the merchandise at a lower price, thus leaving the agent out in the cold.

MADAGASCAR WAR-RISK INSURANCE.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave, Sept. 12.]

In November, 1914, the rate of war-risk insurance in Madagascar for coastwise trade was fixed at one-half of 1 per cent, but this rate has been modified at sundry times since then. The latest schedule—which applies also to freight transported between Madagascar and Reunion or Mauritius and between Madagascar and British South Africa—was published on September 6, under which the rates are:

1. (a) Cargoes when transported by French, allied, or neutral vessels between two neighboring ports of the colony situated on the same coast, one-fifth of 1 per cent; (b) between two distant ports of the colony situated on the same coast, three-tenths of 1 per cent; (c) between two ports of the colony situated on different coasts, two-fifths of 1 per cent, except where between two neighboring ports, one of which shall be Diego Suarez, the rate shall be calculated as for two neighboring ports on the same coast.
2. Cargoes when transported by French, allied, or neutral vessels between Madagascar and Reunion or Mauritius, two-fifths of 1 per cent.
3. Cargoes transported under the French flag between Madagascar and British colonies of South Africa, three-fifths of 1 per cent.

SELF-IGNITING WATER LIGHT APPROVED.

The Hook Seam Emergency Self-Lighting Life Buoy Can, manufactured by Henry J. Pain, New York, N. Y., has been tested by the United States Bureau of Standards, approved by the Steamboat-Inspection Service, and allowed for use on vessels.

CHINA'S TRADE IN WINES AND SPIRITS.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Sept. 28.]

So far as I can ascertain, only one company is engaged in the manufacture of wines and liquors suitable for foreign consumption in China. The Chang Yu Pioneer Wine Co. (Ltd.), a Chinese-owned stock company, with a capital of approximately \$1,000,000, has laid out extensive vineyards on the hills surrounding Chefoo, in the Province of Shantung, and the technical management is under the supervision of a European expert. The vines used by this concern are said to have been imported from Europe and America. Chefoo is only two days' journey from Shanghai by steamer and is said to have a soil specially suitable for the wine industry.

The importation of wines and liquors into China during the year 1915 was as follows:

Description.	Value.	Chief countries of origin.
ALL CHINA.		
Beer and porter	\$447, 412	Japan and Great Britain.
Spirits, not including spirits of wine.....	720, 552	Great Britain and Russia.
Wines, red and white, and sake.....	617, 660	Japan, France, and Great Britain.
Other wines.....	44, 240	France and Great Britain.
	1, 829, 814	
SHANGHAI.		
Champagne.....	49, 440	France.
Red and white wines.....	44, 127	Do.
Beer, ale, porter, and stout.....	141, 728	Japan and England.
Port.....	13, 067	Spain.
Vermuth, etc.....	17, 280	France and Italy.
Brandy and cognac.....	64, 080	France.
Gin.....	29, 639	Great Britain.
Whisky.....	81, 630	Do.
Liqueurs.....	23, 660	France.
Other kinds.....	13, 641	France and Great Britain.
	478, 292	

About one-third of the quantity imported into Shanghai was re-exported to other Chinese ports, Shanghai being the distributing center for north China. Small quantities of wines are imported from the United States, and American clarets especially have been much in evidence recently, being found in any retail wine store.

There would be no obstacles in the way of a foreigner wishing to establish a manufactory in any of the treaty ports, but foreigners are not allowed to trade in the interior.



THE DUTCH SUGAR-BEET CROP.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 10.]

The first published report of final results of this year's sugar-beet crop in Holland comes from the Province of Friesland and is not at all encouraging. In comparison with 1915 the crop there has retrograded and is only medium, while the sugar content is only 14 per cent against 19 per cent last year.

Latest reports as to the condition of the sugar-beet crop in general suggest that the result in Friesland is typical of what will be reported from the whole country.

DECREASING IMPORTS OF GLOVES INTO UNITED STATES.

Imports of leather gloves into the United States in the fiscal year 1916 were less than in any year since 1905. In that year, according to the records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, they were valued at \$5,095,337. In 1907 they reached their highest level at \$10,633,668, and in succeeding years have varied in total value between \$7,000,000 and \$10,000,000 annually until 1916, when they dropped to \$4,793,916.

Normally Germany and France furnish more than four-fifths of our imported gloves, England about 10 per cent, Italy about 5 per cent, and Austria-Hungary and Belgium together about 4 per cent. Small amounts are also brought from Denmark, Netherlands, Ireland, and Canada, while occasional imports are from Australia, China, Mexico, Switzerland, and a few other countries.

The following table compares the imports of 1916 with those of the preceding year:

Countries of origin.	Years ended June 30—		
	1916		1915
	<i>Pairs.</i>	<i>Values.</i>	<i>Values.</i>
France.....	388,394	\$2,824,363	\$3,570,730
Germany.....	196,451	927,611	2,619,133
England.....	48,371	424,996	762,544
Italy.....	69,027	359,380	470,198
Belgium.....	18,036	89,908	63,719
Austria-Hungary.....	8,238	42,551	162,087
Other countries.....	2,181	15,097	25,105
Total.....	700,698	4,793,916	7,673,516

FORMATION OF RUSSO-BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 2.]

At a recent meeting of British and Russian firms interested, convened by the Russian consul general in London, it was decided to form a Russo-British Chamber of Commerce in London. An executive committee, composed of an equal number of Russians and British, was appointed to draw up the constitution and by-laws of the chamber. This has been done, and the memorandum and articles of association have been duly registered and the chamber definitely constituted. There is to be a British section and a Russian section. The membership of the chamber will be strictly limited to persons or companies of British or Russian nationality whose business is carried on within the British and Russian Empires or their allies. The registered offices of the association are at International Buildings, Kingsway, London, W. C.

RUSSIAN SUGAR-BEET CROP.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 26.]

The British commercial attaché at Petrograd reports that statistics issued by the All-Russian Sugar-Refiners' Society put the area under beets at the harvesting of the crop at 1,594,930 acres in 1916, as compared with 1,783,967 acres in 1915. The yield, it is estimated, will be 11,632,800 short tons, as against 12,415,300 tons in 1915, the yield per acre being thus 7.29 tons, as compared with 6.95 tons in 1915.

RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Oct. 27.]

One of the most important railway improvements in many years in Guatemala will be realized and made effective January 1, 1917, when the International Railway of Central America will begin freight and passenger services on its newly located 12-mile line leading from Puerto Barrios to Manoca, where connection will be made with the company's existing line to Guatemala City. The operation of the newly located line will mean the utilization of the big tunnel that cuts the high grade at Corozo Hill, 7 miles from Puerto Barrios, thus reducing the gradient from nearly 5 per cent to nine-tenths of 1 per cent. The reduced grade will enable the road to put into effect an improved passenger schedule, and at the same time will increase the drawing capacity of the engines and permit betterments in the freight service.

The tunnel was conceived and located years ago by Mr. Bulfinch, an American engineer, now deceased, and was brought to completion by another American, Mr. A. Clark, as general manager of the International. It is 753 feet in length, 16 feet in width, and 18½ feet in height. Owing to the porous nature of the soil the work presented peculiar engineering difficulties. This is the third tunnel to be built on the Puerto Barrios-Guatemala City line, the road having at this time two tunnels in operation within a distance of 30 miles from Guatemala City.

Improved Service—Capital and Subsidies.

With the relocated line and its tunnel available the International Railways of Central America will, as stated, put a new schedule in operation for both passenger and freight service, effective January 1, 1917. The running time of the passenger trains between Puerto Barrios and Guatemala City will be shortened. The reduced grade will practically treble the drawing capacity of the engines and will permit much heavier trains to be hauled. The use of double-headers, which has been imperative in the past on account of the steep grade, especially in handling the banana traffic to Puerto Barrios, will be dispensed with. The service as a whole will be so greatly benefited that the railway management feel that the expenditure of \$250,000 U. S. gold, necessary for the improvement, has been amply justified. The newly located line is about a mile longer than the existing line between Puerto Barrios and Manoca.

The International Railways of Central America was incorporated in 1912 and represents a consolidation of the Guatemala Railway (195 miles), the Guatemala Central Railway (189 miles), the Occidental Railway (51 miles), and the Ocos Railway (22 miles). The company's main lines at present extend from Puerto Barrios to Guatemala City, a distance of 194.5 miles, thence to San José de Guatemala, on the Pacific Ocean, a distance of 74 miles. The company is capitalized for \$40,000,000 and has issued bonds in the sum of \$10,850,000. It receives subsidies from the Governments of Guatemala and Salvador, ranging from \$5,150 to \$11,780 per mile. The Salvador division of 40 miles is operated separately. The Government of Guatemala may purchase the lines after the year 2002 at a price to be decided by arbitration. The lines located in Salvador

may be purchased after June, 1978, by the Government of that country at an arbitrated price. After the year 2006 Salvador will receive the lines without indemnity.

New Line to Mexican Border.

In 1914 the International Railways of Central America acquired by purchase a 60-mile railroad extending from Santa María, on the main line between Guatemala City and San José de Guatemala, to Las Cruces. The same year it built an extension, at a cost of \$850,000 United States gold, from Las Cruces to Ayutla, a distance of 45 miles. Ayutla is on the border of Mexico, Mariscal, Mexico, being on the other side of the River Suchiate, which forms the boundary between the two countries. Although the road was constructed in 1914, through freight and passenger traffic between Guatemala City and Ayutla was not inaugurated until October 1, 1916.

The International Railways of Central America has also projected a line to run southeasterly from Santa María to Santa Ana in Salvador. It is stated that when this and other lines in Central America, projected or under construction, are completed, a direct through route will be afforded between Vera Cruz, Mexico, and Panama and Colon, extending along the western portion of Central America through the five Republics of Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

OPIUM TRAFFIC OF THE SOCIETY ISLANDS.

[Consul Thomas B. L. Layton, Tahiti, Oct. 1.]

By gubernatorial decree the importation and sale of opium in the French Establishments in Oceania will cease after December 31, 1920. The decree was issued on October 1 in accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Colonies, in which it was set forth that as the sale of opium is a Government monopoly, furnishing a large part of the colonial revenues, its importation and sale might be continued at the discretion of the Governor during a period not to exceed 10 years.

The prices at which opium will be sold during the extension granted by the Governor are as follows: During 1917, 500 francs per kilo (\$43.75 a pound); during 1918, 550 francs (\$48.15 a pound); and from the beginning of 1919 to the close of 1920, 600 francs (\$52.50 a pound).

MUNICIPAL BUDGETS IN PERU.

The President of Peru has issued a decree requiring all municipalities to administer their finances in accordance with annual budgets. The decree, published in a recent number of *El Peruano*, specifies that in June of each year municipal councils shall prepare an estimate of expenditures for the calendar year. Following the discussion and adoption of budgets they will be sent to the departmental board for approval. When approved the budgets will be printed in December of each year, and will be distributed to all officials concerned in the administration of the affairs of the municipalities.

SWISS MARKET FOR EBONITE.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne.]

Despite an important home production, about \$25,000 worth of foreign ebonite of the better qualities was purchased yearly by Switzerland before the war, principally from Germany, Italy, and France. Present importations, however, amount only to one-fourth of that figure. Germany is not now exporting rubber and kindred articles, but Swiss buyers have been able to obtain small quantities from France and England. Efforts also are being made to obtain goods in the United States, but importers are experiencing difficulty in getting deliveries.

One large Berne concern, which makes practically all of the telephonic and telegraphic apparatus mounted in Switzerland and is said to be one of the largest consumers of ebonite in the Republic, bought up all ebonite to be found in the country. It was thus able to continue business in the ordinary way, but its small trial stocks are decreasing rapidly. An order placed in America by this concern six months ago is still unfilled. The company uses ebonite in sheets, thickness 0.5 millimeter to 30 millimeters (0.019685 to 1.1811 inches), in rods (round) from 2 to 30 millimeters (0.07874 to 1.1811 inches), in tubes from 2½ to 3½ centimeters (0.98425 to 1.37795 inches), and various forms and sizes. All sizes are bought, but those named are the principal lines.

It appears that Swiss consumers are buying direct from the manufacturers, either domestic or foreign. There are no local agents or dealers in the trade. Before the war goods were sold by the Swiss manufacturers on terms of 30 days with 2 per cent. or 3 months net. On imported wares the terms formerly were 30 days net after arrival of goods; since the war, cash against documents. The duty on ebonite in bands, sheets, various forms of manufactured articles, cords, bullets, rods, etc., is \$0.0875 per 100 pounds.

[A list of the principal consumers of ebonite in the Berne district may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81110.]

CONSUMPTION AND SUPPLIES OF COTTON.

According to preliminary figures compiled by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, the amount of cotton, exclusive of linters, consumed in the United States during October, 1916, was 555,349 running bales, compared with 500,762 bales in 1915, of which 317,413 bales were consumed in cotton-growing States in 1916 and 271,584 in 1915. Linters consumed during October, 1916, were 66,708 bales, and 77,297 bales in 1915. Cotton held in consuming establishments on October 31, 1916, was 1,722,958 bales, and 1,345,829 bales in 1915, and in public storage and at compresses 3,673,185 bales in 1916 and 4,170,543 in 1915. Imports of cotton were 7,843 500-pound bales in October, 1916, and 13,506 in 1915. Exports, including linters, were 801,471 running bales in 1916 and 675,279 in 1915. Cotton spindles active during October numbered 32,545,409 in 1916 and 31,377,569 in 1915.

Linters held in consuming establishments on October 31 were 67,533 bales in 1916 and 98,114 in 1915, and in public storage and at compresses 76,312 bales in 1916 and 71,634 in 1915. There were exported during October, 1916, 7,430 bales and 12,480 bales in 1915.

FUR TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES.

An unofficial, though highly trustworthy, authority names \$61,000,000 as the value of the manufactured furs annually bought by the people of the United States. If from this sum is subtracted the value of the manufactured furs imported, there remains some \$58,000,000 or \$59,000,000 as the value of the output of American fur-goods factories. That this is a conservative estimate is shown by the official figures of the United States census of 1909, in which year the American fur-goods industry was represented by 1,241 establishments employing 11,927 wage earners and producing goods worth \$55,937,549.

No later data of this nature are available to indicate the course of the industry since that time. That it has not retrograded is evidenced by the commercial returns of the United States. Since 1909 the United States has imported, exported, and reexported furs and fur skins and manufacturers thereof in the following amounts:

Fiscal years ending June 30—	Imports of furs and manufactures of.			Exports of domestic furs and manufactures of.	Exports of foreign furs and manufactures of.
	Undressed.	Dressed and manufac-tured.	Total.		
1909.....	\$11,653,586	\$9,432,993	\$21,086,579	\$9,207,770	\$636,294
1910.....	15,589,278	11,008,386	26,597,644	14,501,635	832,979
1911.....	15,351,001	8,267,947	23,618,948	10,473,517	1,222,919
1912.....	17,339,198	8,533,029	25,872,227	14,975,449	1,241,757
1913.....	16,717,208	8,147,526	24,864,734	18,386,586	1,554,501
1914.....	8,840,321	5,652,973	14,493,294	14,969,371	875,069
1915.....	7,768,348	2,758,140	10,526,488	3,794,459	\$74,535
1916.....	16,891,699	3,208,183	20,099,882	9,288,788	769,671

Imports of Undressed Furs by Countries of Origin.

Taking up for discussion the trade for only the last five years, an inspection of the import statistics of the United States for that period discloses that in 1916 American purchases of foreign undressed furs and fur skins resumed normal proportions after a falling off of some 50 per cent in 1914, and a further decline in 1915 that may be attributed to war conditions. There has also been, during the half-decade, a shifting of the sources from which the United States receives its supplies of furs, as the following table shows:

Undressed furs and fur skins, Imported from—	Fiscal years ending June 30—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Austria-Hungary.....	\$69,363	\$98,694	\$46,330	\$23,948	\$6,307
Belgium.....	1,289,032	1,450,633	524,493	348,722	2,956
Denmark.....	1,300	2,612	672	57,833	125,201
France.....	854,324	931,624	339,676	401,174	1,451,845
Germany.....	6,968,877	5,641,081	2,697,794	1,097,510	418,030
Greece.....	41		50	3,583	39,784
Italy.....	5,166	4,249	10,035	1,457	119
Netherlands.....	39,997	80,824	5,892	36,908	191,368
Norway.....	53,253	133,729	114,813	61,006	91,992
Russia in Europe.....	1,168,198	834,870	171,237	115,787	863,007
Sweden.....		12,954	291	26,464	200,163
Switzerland.....	260	477	1,980	37,067	144,651
Turkey in Europe.....	90,430	94,906	18,298	14,779	11,085
United Kingdom:					
England.....	3,606,347	3,610,769	1,982,593	2,580,446	6,197,517
Scotland.....	24,773	7,436	1,337	45,342	124,635
Ireland.....	17,302	10,061	8,296	10,950	5,097
Canada.....	2,267,807	2,197,509	1,981,637	1,762,269	4,183,962
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	121,186	328,448	251,465	181,026	71,665
Argentina.....	11,768	5,214	8,667	222,439	1,040,793
Chile.....	19,634	32,256	7,144	9,122	38,451
China.....	71,298	175,770	58,915	37,680	134,393
British India.....	2,767	31,919	21,892	177	869

Undressed furs and fur skins, imported from—	Fiscal years ending June 30—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Japan.....	\$43,292	\$21,389	\$80,943	\$16,068	\$225,506
Russia in Asia.....	35,837	98,312	125,383	147,567	71,149
Australia.....	547,997	878,033	356,933	452,374	1,190,555
New Zealand.....	6,930	5,530	6,037	60,461	7,606
South Africa.....	2,015	19,012	6,333	57	32,033
All other countries.....	20,004	8,997	16,895	12,530	10,857
Total.....	17,339,198	16,717,208	8,840,321	7,768,348	16,891,699

Trade in Foreign Dressed Furs and Manufactures Remains Stagnant.

In dressed furs the import trade continued stagnant, for, while there was a slight rally and imports exceeded those of 1915, their value in the year just ended was less than half that of 1912.

Furs dressed on the skin, imported from—	Fiscal years ending June 30—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Austria-Hungary.....	\$11,400	\$6,400	\$5,334	\$3,955	.....
Belgium.....	1,167,370	924,519	553,019	269,157	\$17,686
Denmark.....	34	6	49	4,576	10,354
France.....	1,620,216	1,584,488	647,538	364,019	667,740
Germany.....	1,896,629	2,057,222	1,206,587	337,963	199,641
Netherlands.....	342	129	151	30,295	629
Norway.....	216	526	668	40,455	785
Russia in Europe.....	6,820	14,841	14,847	1,895	15,900
Sweden.....	.....	.....	8	2,373	42,530
United Kingdom: England.....	511,309	603,646	250,018	128,779	455,101
Canada.....	37,212	35,563	28,985	30,334	120,146
China.....	78,220	156,539	487,001	330,520	581,733
All other countries.....	16,034	11,899	10,051	9,487	20,996
Total.....	5,345,802	5,395,778	3,204,261	1,583,701	2,153,400

The decline in imports of manufactured furs that marked the other four years of the half-decade under review continued in 1916, the value of such imports being but one-third their value in 1912.

Manufactures of fur, imported from—	Fiscal years ending June 30—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
HATS, BONNETS, AND HOODS.					
Austria-Hungary.....	\$207,451	\$280,399	\$304,808	\$95,009	\$7,087
Belgium.....	100,997	50,111	43,435	8,899	3,848
France.....	264,779	153,835	103,947	81,733	57,964
Germany.....	66,648	37,493	26,392	5,340	422
Italy.....	48,052	80,618	64,929	60,042	154,318
United Kingdom: England.....	196,782	149,575	113,036	103,286	89,666
All other countries.....	1,234	1,147	1,601	1,188	665
Total.....	885,943	763,178	657,648	364,437	313,713
OTHER MANUFACTURES, INCLUDING WASTE.					
Austria-Hungary.....	20,063	17,088	20,969	9,606	.....
Belgium.....	158,152	85,479	222,679	119,253	2,106
France.....	1,063,852	722,636	655,489	266,468	374,762
Germany.....	569,227	622,269	394,370	157,060	75,901
Italy.....	22,401	7,590	12,332	13,588	3,657
Sweden.....	30	38	50	1,160	17,353
Switzerland.....	10,394	3,034	2,350	3,654	9,453
United Kingdom:					
England.....	160,595	208,446	221,372	144,002	123,313
Ireland.....	34,190	3	2	76	6
Canada.....	44,925	44,022	21,330	17,282	31,447
China.....	191,647	262,305	227,638	44,505	92,160
All other countries.....	25,808	15,660	12,608	33,806	18,829
Total.....	2,301,284	1,988,570	1,791,074	869,962	741,070
Grand total.....	3,187,227	2,751,748	2,448,722	1,174,439	1,064,783

Reexport Trade of Small Moment.

Practically all of the furs and fur goods imported into the United States remain in the country, the trade in reexported goods amounting to only the small sums shown in the following table:

Furs, and manufactures of, reexported.	Fiscal years ending June 30—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Undressed furs and fur skins.....	\$916, 630	\$1, 243, 479	\$557, 833	\$279, 944	\$543, 331
Dressed, and manufactures of:					
Furs, dressed on the skin.....	206, 714	196, 855	218, 543	242, 202	84, 340
Manufactures of—					
Hats, bonnets, and hoods.....	1, 128	2, 762	2, 940	736	145
All other, including waste.....	117, 285	111, 405	95, 747	51, 653	122, 855
Total dressed, and manufactures of....	325, 127	311, 022	317, 235	294, 591	207, 340
Grand total reexported.....	1, 241, 757	1, 554, 501	875, 068	574, 535	750, 671

Domestic Furs Sold Abroad.

The record year of the last half-decade so far as the value of the domestic furs exported is concerned was 1913, when \$18,389,600 worth of undressed and dressed fur skins and fur goods was shipped abroad. The trade during 1912 and 1914 was about equal and approximated \$15,000,000 for each twelvemonth, only to drop in 1915 to less than \$4,000,000. In 1916 there was a recovery to \$9,288,800, as the following table shows:

Domestic furs, and manufactures of, exported.	Fiscal years ending June 30—				
	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Raw or unmanufactured furs and fur skins:					
Sealskins.....	(a)	\$188, 700	\$37, 199	\$405	\$600
All other.....	\$14, 360, 008	17, 276, 303	14, 061, 348	2, 540, 519	6, 852, 473
Dressed, and manufactures of.....	615, 441	924, 683	870, 824	1, 253, 535	2, 435, 713
Total.....	14, 975, 449	18, 389, 586	14, 969, 371	3, 794, 459	9, 288, 786
Exported to:					
France.....	847, 222	1, 064, 886	1, 038, 888	258, 140	1, 143, 411
Germany.....	5, 014, 980	6, 276, 736	4, 368, 537	107, 918	.....
United Kingdom.....	6, 196, 807	7, 187, 995	7, 811, 083	1, 937, 246	5, 310, 323
Canada.....	2, 570, 831	3, 395, 577	1, 496, 400	1, 105, 133	2, 120, 300
Other countries.....	345, 609	484, 392	254, 463	386, 022	714, 752

(a) Not separately stated.

The expert already referred to estimates the amount of money received yearly by the trappers and hunters of the United States (including Alaska) for the furs they collect at \$20,000,000. The foregoing table shows the value of the annual exports of these domestic furs, but it is not known what proportion of the skins so shipped are dressed abroad and then returned to this country for further manufacture.

The fur-goods industry is one of those characterized as "showing a marked degree of concentration," New York State producing 73.8 per cent of the output in 1909, and New York City alone furnishing 71.3 per cent of the year's total.

MODEL CITY AT HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 23.]

For a good many years schemes have been entertained from time to time for the erection somewhere in South China of a model city for the use of well-to-do Chinese. Chinese people of wealth and Chinese returning from the United States, Australia, and other sections of the globe with a knowledge of modern cities have felt this need, and in recent years several attempts have been made to launch such a project.

One scheme went so far as the organization of a city at Heungshan, not far from Kongmoon and within a short distance of Hongkong. This city was established upon Chinese soil and by special arrangement with the Chinese Government. It was to have certain customs privileges; it was established upon modern sanitary lines; and its close proximity to Hongkong, on the one hand, and its location in the part of China from which come most of the Chinese in America on the other, were expected to make it attractive. The city has made little progress, however.

Modern Suburb the Latest Project.

The latest undertaking of this sort is for the construction of a model suburb of Hongkong along the most modern lines for the housing of wealthy Chinese. This plan involves the reclamation of a tract of land about a mile and a half long and a third of a mile broad, the construction of wide avenues and fairly wide side streets, the erection of 47 blocks of high-grade apartment, tenement, and similar buildings, and the establishment of a modern sewerage system and other public utilities. In spite of war and the uncertainties of finance the company undertaking this enterprise has been formed and its plans completed, and work is to commence at once.

As has been indicated in reports from this office [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 13, 1916], increasing numbers of wealthy Chinese from various parts of South China are coming to Hongkong to make this city their permanent residence. The result has been a constantly increasing need for houses for such people and a growing demand on their part for homes so situated that they can be among their countrymen. Most of these newcomers have plenty of money for their needs, and some of them have considerable sums for which they seek profitable investment. Purchases of residence property in the lower levels of Hongkong by such people have changed the entire course of real-estate matters in the colony of Hongkong. The organization of this new suburb offers a way out of many difficulties, for it will not only afford this class of people the proper housing they demand but will also offer a ready and safe investment.

The new suburb is to be located on the south side of the Kowloon peninsula, the mainland portion of the colony of Hongkong, 2 miles from the landing of the ferry from the city of Victoria (commonly known as Hongkong) and along the shore of Kowloon Bay near the native city of Kowloon. The site is to cover a tract about 8,000 feet long and 1,500 feet broad, embracing the foreshore only but backed by hills from which several small streams emerge, the ravines affording considerable fall for drainage purposes. The reclamation is wholly a dredging undertaking. The company is at present drawing specifications for the work to be done and expects to let the contract

within the next six or eight weeks. There is some doubt as to whether dredging machinery of sufficient capacity will be available at the present time for the company's purposes, but apparently this is the only obstacle in the way of rapid progress being made upon the entire undertaking.

Construction by Syndicates—Plans Include Piers and Warehouses.

The reclamation of the land for this suburb is being undertaken by the original syndicate, the plan being that the construction of tenements, private residences, piers, and warehouses shall be undertakings of separate syndicates to be arranged later. Being on the mainland portion of the colony the site has the advantage of railway connections for piers and warehouses and to assist in its development generally. It is probable that connections with Kowloon and Hongkong will be maintained by motor busses rather than by a tramway system, but this question is yet to be settled.

The plan includes the erection of four piers, with space for warehouses if need for them arises, on the water front of the reclaimed land. The depth of the water now over the site averages about one and a half fathoms. With the extension of the piers and the dredging to be done in reclamation work sufficient depth for ordinary oceangoing vessels will be had at all tides.

Unless delayed by a lack of machinery it is expected that the reclamation will be completed in about two years.

WORK URGED BY COMMERCE BODIES UNDERTAKEN.

In response to action taken by commercial organizations of New Orleans and Mobile, urging a resurvey of Mississippi Sound, Lake Borgne, and Lake Pontchartrain, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has made preparations to undertake this work. This followed the closing, on October 21, of work in the delta of the Mississippi. The steamer *Hydrographer* was engaged during October in combined operations at the mouth of that river. The tall hydrographic signals that had been erected were destroyed by the severe tropical storm on October 17 and 18.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey had many other projects under way in October. Wire drag party No. 1 continued work in the approaches to Salem Harbor, Mass. Numerous uncharted rocks were found. Incidentally the topography has been revised, and the positions of radio stations at Boston and Portland, Me., have been determined.

Wire drag party No. 2 has continued dragging in Block Island Sound and Gardiners Bay. A new semaphore system has been devised and used successfully. Twenty square miles were dragged, and 12 shoals were found.

Agency for Sherry Wines.

A consular officer in Spain has been approached by a grower and maturer of sherry wines in his district, who has expressed a desire to have some wholesale wine dealer in the United States act as agent for the sale of old wine. The address of the grower may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 81326.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany...	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay...	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

INCREASED CATCH OF DUTCH NORTH SEA FISHERY.

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, Oct. 10.]

During the first nine months of 1916, 3,282 steam and 6,339 sail fishing vessels landed at the Ymuiden market at the entrance to the North Sea Canal a total catch worth 19,482,665 florins (\$7,832,031). In the corresponding period of 1915 the number of vessels arriving was 3,538 steam and 5,512 sail, with a catch worth 8,662,569 florins (\$3,482,353). While this great increase is in a measure due to higher prices, it is mainly accounted for by the larger catch.

WAREHOUSES OF ROTTERDAM OVERFLOWING.

[Office of American Commercial Attaché, The Hague, Netherlands.]

The warehouses of Rotterdam are full and overflowing. Cargoes of tobacco, etc., have to be discharged on the piers and left there, as it is impossible to obtain sufficient covering. Cargoes from grain and fodder ships have been discharged into about 1,400 lighters and Rhine craft, ready for transportation by waterways to other parts of the Netherlands.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Lock gates, No. 3801.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wheeling, W. Va., until December 14, 1916, for furnishing and erecting lock gates for Dam No. 21, Ohio River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Chain cables, No. 3802.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until November 27, 1916, for two 1½-inch stud-link chain cables. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Storehouse construction, No. 3803.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., for building a storehouse and moving present storehouse to a new site. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Earthwork construction, No. 3804.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the secretary, Mississippi River Commission, 1311 International Life Building, St. Louis, Mo., until December 4, 1916, for constructing about 100,000 cubic yards of earthwork in the East Cape Girardeau and Clear Creek drainage district, Illinois. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Lockkeepers' houses, No. 3805.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wheeling, W. Va., until December 12, 1916, for constructing two 2-story, 14-room double houses, or four bungalow-type houses, at Dam No. 21, Ohio River. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Barge construction, No. 3806.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until December 8, 1916, for building and delivering overboard at the contractor's dock the hull of a single-screw, wood, power, derrick barge. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Medical supplies, No. 3807.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until November 24, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., carbolic acid, cresylic acid, tannic acid, chloride of adrenalin, antiphlogistine, granulated argyrol, Peru balsam, tincture of benzoin, lump camphor, sulphate of copper, absorbent cotton, etc. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Structural steel, etc., No. 3808.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wheeling, W. Va., until December 5, 1916, for furnishing and delivering metal work for Dams Nos. 23, 25, and 27, Ohio River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Repair of tender, No. 3809.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Portland, Oreg., until December 1, 1916, for dry-docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing tender *Manzanita*. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Subsistence supplies, No. 3810.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until November 24, 1916, for delivering, on or before December 14, 1916, sliced beef, sausage, and beef tongue in cans. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Dental supplies, No. 3811.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 22, 1916, for furnishing and delivering electric lathes, electric automatic air-compressor unit, and simplex casting machines. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural machinery.....	23008	Machinery, cement.....	23003
Beer, wines, etc.....	23005	Machinery, sheep shearing.....	23008
Belting, leather.....	23008	Motors, gasoline.....	23008
Canned goods.....	23005; 23012	Packing-house products.....	23005
Celluloid.....	23009	Paper-making products.....	23009
Chemicals.....	23006; 23009; 23012	Pharmaceutical products.....	23006-23012
Cottonseed oil.....	23004	Pipe.....	23008
Creamery and dairy equipment.....	23008	Platinum.....	23001
Drugs and medicines.....	23006	Potato flour.....	23009
Dyes, aniline.....	23009	Provisions.....	23005; 23012
Galvanized iron.....	23008	Pumps, air.....	23002
Gloves and hosiery.....	23007	Sewing machines.....	23010
Grain and flour.....	23005	Tobacco, leaf.....	23004
Grape juice.....	23005	Toys.....	23011
Hardware.....	23008	Windmills.....	23008
Iron ingots.....	23008	Zinc.....	23008

23001.‡—A manufacturer of incandescent lamps in Switzerland is in the market for pure platinum or platinum wire.

23002.*—A firm in Canada desires to communicate with American manufacturers of air pumps for garages.

23003.†—A business man in Mexico is in the market for machinery and complete equipment for a factory for manufacturing cement, having a capacity of 150 to 200 barrels a day. It is desired to use oil as fuel.

23004.*—A large trader in West Africa desires quotations and full information regarding leaf tobacco and cottonseed oil. Correspondence in French.

23005.‡—An established commission merchant in Porto Rico desires to enter into commercial relations with American exporters of rice, flour, corn meal, grain, packing-house products, cereals, fruits, dried fish, beer, wines, and unfermented grape juice.

23006.‡—A firm in India desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals, drugs, and potent medicines.

23007.‡—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 22836, a wholesale merchant in Norway informs the Bureau that he desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of hosiery and gloves, in cotton, silk, and woolen.

23008.*—An established firm in Argentina wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of iron pipe, corrugated and plain galvanized sheets, plain zinc sheets, iron ingots, agricultural machinery, sheep-shearing machinery, gasoline motors, windmills, dairying and creamery equipment of all kinds, hardware, leather belting, etc. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23009.†—A man, now in New York City, desires to purchase for shipment to Holland potato flour, 500 tons; liquid chlorine; paper-making products; calcium chloride; celluloid; salol; boric acid; tartaric acid; oxalic acid; chlorate of potassium; antimony sulphide; pharmaceutical products; and aniline dyes for cotton. Terms, cash at port of shipment.

23010.‡—A firm in Brazil wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of sewing machines for household use. Catalogues and quotations desired. Terms, one-third cash with order, balance against documents in New York. Correspondence in English.

23011.‡—A firm in Portugal desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of boys' air guns and toys of all kinds. Catalogues, price lists, and discounts should be sent.

23012.*—An importer in Spain, with agents in the leading cities of that country, desires to purchase chemical and pharmaceutical products and foodstuffs. Correspondence may be in English. References.

PRINCIPAL COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 270 Washington, D. C., Thursday, November 16 1916

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RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE SHIPMENTS ENTERING RUSSIA.

The following announcement regarding the forwarding of goods to Russia has been issued by the Russian commercial attaché in New York:

The commercial attaché to the Imperial Russian Embassy wishes to bring to the attention of American shippers interested in forwarding goods to Russia via Vladivostok that the importation into Russia of private shipments via Vladivostok is temporarily forbidden except under special permit. The existing regulations governing the importation of goods via Archangel apply at present likewise to Vladivostok; that is, the American shipper should for each individual shipment make application through his Russian consignee to the Imperial Department of Commerce, Petrograd.

NEW POST AND TELEGRAPH CHARGES IN AUSTRIA.

[Consul General Albert Halstead, Vienna, Sept. 25.]

Post and telegraph charges have been advanced in Austria with the view of raising revenue to pay the interest on the war loan. It is calculated that as a result of this action 90,000,000 crowns (\$18,270,000) additional revenue will be procured. The postage on ordinary letters will hereafter be 15 hellers, or 3 cents; on unofficial post cards, 10 hellers, or 2 cents. Post cards with printed stamp will cost 8 hellers, or 1.6 cents. Telegraph rates in Austria are advanced from 6 hellers to 8 hellers (from 1.2 cents to 1.6 cents) a word, with a minimum charge per telegram of 1 crown (20 cents).

[These advances are in accord with the new postal treaties concluded between Germany, Austria, and Hungary, concerning which a report appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 28, 1916.]

NEW STEAMSHIP LINE TO FRANCE.

[Consul General Evan E. Young, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, Nov. 8.]

The first sailing of the new Halifax-St. Nazaire steamer service of the Marine Navigation Co. will take place on or about November 15, the company's *Nigaristan* being now in port. It is understood that all cargo space for the first few sailings has been booked.

SPANISH SUGAR RESERVES.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 3.]

According to statistics published by the Direction General of Spanish Customs the total amount of sugar on hand in Spain on June 30, 1916, was 32,317 metric tons (metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds), of which amount 25,338 tons were unrefined and 6,979 tons refined. This sugar was distributed as follows: In the mills, 22,931 tons; in refineries, 6,317 tons; in special depots, 3,069 tons. The total of 32,317 tons, compared with 70,239 tons on hand June 30, 1915, represents a decrease of 37,922 tons.

Of the sugar in the mills, 21,396 tons were unrefined beet sugar and 1,535 tons were unrefined cane sugar. The beet-sugar production from January 1 to June 30, 1916, aggregated 29,330 tons, an increase of 5,185, compared with the first six months of 1915, but the amounts distributed and exported have so increased that the quantity in the mills was 30,423 tons less than at the end of June, 1915. The production of cane sugar during the first six months of 1916 amounted to 3,745 tons, compared with 5,012 tons during the corresponding period of 1915, and cane sugar in the mills on June 30, 1916, was less by 1,727 tons than at the end of June, 1915.

During the first six months of 1916, 5,511 tons of sugar were imported, contrasted with 35 in 1915 and 10 in 1914; and 763 tons were exported, against 3,986 in 1915 and 12 in 1914.

Under normal circumstances the consumption of sugar in Spain amounts to about 10,000 tons a month.

DUTCH COOPERATIVE SOCIETY OF IRONWORKS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 11.]

A cooperative society of Dutch ironworks has been formed, with headquarters in Amsterdam. Its objects are thus described:

The creation and operation of bureaus of its own for the purchase and sale of all raw materials, other materials, implements, and machinery used in the ironworks business.

The creation and operation of its own means of providing and preparing supplies of raw materials required by the ironworks business.

The making and maintenance of rules and regulations regarding the economical conditions and circumstances under which the business of the ironworks is conducted between the members of the society and also between the members and other parties, as customers, suppliers, employees, etc.

Regulating the production of the ironworks among the members of the society and the distribution of the product to their best advantage.

Organization and promotion of the cooperative credit.

Lending assistance and providing information to the members regarding the ironworks business and what is connected therewith.

Employment of other lawful measures and proceedings which may be conducive to the realization of the society's purpose.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO SHIPPERS TO BRAZIL.

Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, has transmitted copies of the Shippers' Guide, a pamphlet dealing with the customs regulations, customs brokerage fees, regulations affecting travelers' samples, etc., in Brazil, issued by the Companhia Expresso Federal of Rio de Janeiro. Copies of the publication will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

UNFAVORABLE CROP PROSPECTS IN ROSARIO DISTRICT.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, Argentina, Oct. 16.]

While official reports are not yet available, the crop prospects for the Rosario district are distinctly unfavorable. The past winter has been one of the coldest and driest on record, and there has been no abundant general rain since late in February. La Nacion reported a week ago that even with prompt rainfall the linseed crop in the important Rosario and Santa Fe regions would be 50 per cent below normal. Wheat and corn have also suffered from drought. In Entre Rios the loss as respects linseed and wheat is estimated at 50 per cent even in the event of rain. Reports from parts of Cordoba are also far from favorable. Extensive regions in Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and Cordoba have also been invaded by locusts.

The Review of the River Plate estimated a week ago that unless there was immediate rainfall in the Province of Santa Fe over 70 per cent of the linseed crop of the region was lost and that Argentine stocks on hand did not exceed 150,000 tons. The best rain in many months fell on the morning of October 12. It failed, however, to benefit very appreciably some of the regions most affected by drought, especially the northern part of Santa Fe. Unless followed promptly by further rainfall, it will not have materially changed prospects in this district.

MIDWINTER POULTRY SHOW AT MONCTON.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 2.]

A midwinter poultry show will be held in Moncton from December 12 to 15, under the auspices of the Maritime Stock Breeders' Association, an organization made up of members from the three Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

From inquiries made among local persons directly interested in this exhibition it has been learned that catalogues and other literature descriptive of poultry requisites will be welcomed for distribution among exhibitors and visitors. Inasmuch as fanciers from all the Maritime Provinces will be represented, American manufacturers of these lines will find this a good opportunity for bringing their wares to the attention of a large community of potential buyers.

The secretary-manager of the show committee is Mr. F. L. Fuller, Truro, Nova Scotia; Mr. S. E. McKie, 37 Weldon Street, Moncton, is the local man principally concerned with the preliminary arrangements.

INCREASED PRICES OF TOBACCO IN ITALY.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Oct. 14.]

By a decree published in the Official Gazette of September 30 the retail price per pound of Superior Maryland Cut and Superior Strong Cut tobacco is increased from \$1.75 to \$2.20; that of First Quality Cut Sweet from \$1.55 to \$1.75; Macedonia cigarettes, with or without mouthpiece, from \$3.50 to \$3.95; and Virginia and Maryland cigarettes from \$2.65 to \$3.05. These prices are to be in force from October 1, 1916, until six months after the conclusion of peace. The sale of tobacco in Italy is a Government monopoly.

SCOTCH BOYS STUDYING THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Scotland, Oct. 26.]

In preparation for the extension of British trade in Russia, classes have been formed in public schools and other educational institutions in Scotland for the study of the Russian language. This step has been due principally to recommendations made by chambers of commerce and other commercial associations. At present 168 students are enrolled in such classes in the Edinburgh district.

The University of Edinburgh has two lecturers in Russian, one a Russian and the other a Scotsman. They alternately deliver the daily lecture. At present the class has 5 members. In the Heriot-Watt College a night class meets twice a week. Students must either qualify by attending the Royal High School two seasons or prove that they have had other satisfactory grounding in the language. There are about 40 students. The Royal High School is the only institution under the Edinburgh School Board that has a course in Russian. There is a night class twice a week with 50 pupils in attendance.

Russian is taught at one of the Merchant Co.'s institutions—George Watson's College for Boys. There are 10 boys in the class. Arrangements are being made by the Merchant Co. for teaching Russian at Daniel Stewart's College for Boys, and also at the company's two schools for girls if a sufficient number of students enroll.

In the woollen-manufacturing district of South Scotland the school boards of Galashiels and Hawick have started classes in Russian, with an enrollment of 23 in the former town and 40 in the latter. The classes meet once a week in the evening.

[Mention of the Hawick Russian class was made in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 21, 1916; articles on the study of Russian in England appeared in the issues for Aug. 10 and 21 of this year.]

SUCCESSFUL WHALING SEASON FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 31.]

The whaling season of the Victoria Whaling Co. was closed last week when the *William Grant*, the last of eight vessels operated this summer, arrived in port for winter quarters. Taken as a whole, the season has been successful and the average compares well with the previous year. There were 403 whales captured, which is about the same number as for the 1914 season, when 10 vessels were engaged as against 8 this season.

During the past season the whaling company operated three stations, one at Kyoquot, on the west coast of Vancouver Island; another at Rose Harbor, southern Queen Charlotte Islands; and a third at Naden Harbor, northern Queen Charlotte Islands. The season was opened at the beginning of May.

Of the 403 whales caught this season, finns and humpbacks were in the majority, while a few sperms and sulphur-bottoms were harpooned. Kyoquot had the record catch, with 175 whales to the credit of the vessels stationed on the west coast. Rose Harbor came second, with 121, and Naden Harbor third, with 107 mammals.

The fleet operating out of Bay City, Wash., accounted for 268 during the season.

SHIPMENTS FROM NOTTINGHAM TO UNITED STATES.*

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, England, Oct. 20.]

The exports from the Nottingham district to the United States for the quarter ended September 30, 1916, were valued at \$2,643,731, as compared with \$2,112,422 for the corresponding period in 1915, or an increase of \$531,309. This brings the value of declared exports from this district to the United States for the three quarters of 1916 up to \$9,050,791, as compared with \$5,660,416 for the same period in 1915.

The principal items showing increases during the quarter ended September 30, 1916, in comparison with the same period in 1915, were:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Ale	\$8,438	\$19,420	Laces, cotton	\$735,576	\$1,050,157
Hosiery:			Nets, silk	173,194	280,432
Cotton	8,896	14,444	Skins, pickled, sheep	108,051	153,270
Wool	16,376	35,301	Yarn, cotton	103,430	207,493

The increases in cotton laces, yarn, silk nets, and pickled sheepskins are due to the steady demand for these articles in the United States, which has been maintained throughout 1916.

Only three items show a decrease during the quarter, as compared with 1915, namely: Cotton nets, from \$605,266 to \$553,594; machinery accessories, from \$10,974 to \$3,781; and Levers lace machinery, from \$44,689 to none in the 1916 period.

Exports from the Leicester Agency.

The value of the declared exports from the Leicester agency to the United States during the quarter ended September 30, 1916, was \$78,318, as compared with \$58,159 for the corresponding period of 1915. The principal increases were in the items of silk hatbands and leather. The increase in the exports of silk hatbands is due to the fact that two firms are now exporting to the United States, whereas in 1915 there was only one firm engaged in this business.

The increase in leather exports is accounted for by the fact that the British Government granted permission for the exportation of a lot of bellies and uppers, which were not suitable for military purposes, and for which a ready sale was found in the United States.

There was but one small decrease; that of woolen gloves. During the third quarter of 1915, 4,851 dozen pairs of woolen gloves, valued at \$7,944, were exported to the United States as compared with 2,216 dozen pairs, valued at \$6,333, for the same period of 1916, which shows a decrease of over 100 per cent in quantity, but only a slight decrease in value. This is attributable to the fact that manufacturers are now using rabbit wool, a product of France, in the manufacture of a considerable portion of the gloves.

Amalgamation of Danish Shoe Manufacturers.

Vice Consul Axel Permin, of Copenhagen, reports that 10 Danish shoe manufacturers have combined in one joint-stock company, under the name of De Forenede Skotøjsfabriker (The United Shoe Factories), in order the better to meet the foreign competition that is likely to arise after the close of the present war.

MOTION-PICTURE SHOWS POPULAR IN COLON DISTRICT.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Nov. 2.]

Motion pictures are so popular in Colon that another theater seating 1,000 people has recently been opened in addition to the two large ones in operation here for years. These theaters, which receive the better class of popular films from the United States, do a good business every evening in the week. Most of the films brought to Colon are used also at the two forts near the city (Fort Sherman, at Toro Point, and Fort Randolph, at Margarita Point), at both of which motion pictures are shown every evening; on the U. S. S. *Charleston*, the mother ship for the submarines stationed here, four evenings a week; and at Gatun, 7 miles south of Colon, three evenings a week. A few weeks ago "The Birth of a Nation" was given in the Y. M. C. A. clubhouse in Cristobal and at many other places in the Canal Zone. In spite of the rather high prices for tickets this play drew large houses. At the Cristobal clubhouse films are shown three evenings a week.

In the Province of Bocas del Toro, in this consular district, there are four picture halls—two at Bocas del Toro, and one each at Almirante and Guabito. It is announced that the Guabito Banking & Mercantile Co., recently organized with a capital stock of \$100,000, is about to replace the old halls in Almirante and Guabito with new theater buildings to cost about \$5,000 each. Almirante is at the terminus of the railway system of the United Fruit Co., where its ships take on cargoes of bananas; Guabito, which is a village of 1,000 people some 20 miles west of Almirante, is in the midst of the great banana plantations of this company.

AMALGAMATION OF SILK ASSOCIATIONS AT LYON.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, Oct. 20.]

Up to 1892 there was but one association of silk manufacturers at Lyon. During that year, however, differences arose over the question of free trade and the free traders withdrew and formed an association of their own. Save for their views on the tariff the two societies (l'Association de la Fabrique Lyonnaise and l'Association de la Soierie Lyonnaise) were alike, both having for their object the protection of their trade and the study of all subjects touching silk manufacture. They speak through various committees, either to the Board of Trade of Lyon or directly to the Government, upon all matter affecting the silk industry.

A realization of the importance of presenting a united front when the war is over has just resulted in the amalgamation of the two bodies, the combination having been effected at a general meeting held September 29. A special committee was appointed to consider all questions at issue and came to a common agreement as to tariff matters in particular. This was accomplished by the high protectionists agreeing to a lower duty and the free traders accepting the proposition as a concession to unity. A committee representing both sides was selected to choose officers and at the next meeting, to be held the latter part of October, it is expected the recommendations of this committee will be ratified.

CAPE TOWN DRAINAGE SCHEME.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, South Africa, Oct. 5; supplementing reports in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 14 and May 13, 1916.]

Work has been commenced on the drainage system for the southern suburbs of Cape Town and is being carried on as rapidly as circumstances will permit. Only small sections have, however, been dealt with so far; and, although the work is progressing, it is not expected that construction on a large scale will begin for several months, owing to the necessity of obtaining certain supplies from overseas. The completion of the entire project outlined by the city engineer will require five to seven years.

Efforts are being made to procure locally as much of the material as is possible and practicable. In this connection South African pipes and cement are being tested to determine their suitability, and it is believed that purchases of such supplies as these will be confined almost entirely to manufacturers in the Union. Machinery, pumps, sanitary appliances, etc., will have to be obtained outside of South Africa, and in such cases plans and specifications will be submitted and bids called for, as desired, in England by the corporation's London agents. American firms wishing to supply any of the materials needed for this drainage project should deal direct with these London agents [whose address may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 81801], as it is doubtful whether any bids will be considered here without having first been submitted to these agents.

RUSSIAN TRANSIT PROHIBITIONS.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 19.]

A decree of the Russian Ministers of Commerce and Finance dated September 12 contains the following regulations respecting the prohibition of the transit of certain goods through Russia:

(1) The transit through Russia of all goods on the Russian list of prohibited exports is prohibited. Exceptions may, however, be allowed by the Minister of Finance in concurrence with the Minister of Commerce, in favor of allied or neutral countries.

(2) The transit through the Empire of the products of the soil or industry of enemy countries is prohibited.

(3) In order to prove that parcels sent in transit through Russia do not contain export-prohibited articles or articles of enemy origin, such parcels may be opened at random by the Russian customs or postal officials.

(4) Should there be discovered in transit parcels articles that are products of the soil or industry of enemy countries, or articles the export of which from Russia is prohibited, such articles not being described by their real names in the declarations accompanying such parcels, the parcels shall be delivered to the customs authorities, who, having ordered the confiscation of the parcels, shall sell the goods at auction, unless the goods are of kinds the circulation of which in Russia is prohibited.

[A list of articles the exportation of which from Russia is prohibited may be obtained from the Division of Foreign Tariffs of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

LOSSES OF THE SPANISH MERCHANT MARINE.

[Consul General Carl Balley Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 2.]

The Spanish Government adopted measures early in January, 1916 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 10, 1916], to prevent the depletion of the Spanish merchant marine through the sale of vessels to foreign countries. The tonnage of the Spanish merchant marine at the end of 1915 had been reduced through the sale and loss of vessels to 799,245 gross tonnage, but during the past six months vessels have been constructed in the national shipbuilding yards amounting to 22,440 tons, making a total of 821,685 gross tonnage. However, the losses to the Spanish merchant marine have amounted to 147,791 tons, 70,000 representing the tonnage of vessels sold, 27,783 the tonnage of vessels sunk by submarines, 23,008 the tonnage of vessels sunk by mines, and 27,000 that lost in other ways. These losses reduce the available tonnage of the Spanish merchant marine to 673,894, a decrease of almost 18 per cent.

The vessels lost by submarines and mines were 14 in number and valued at \$7,140,000, nine vessels with a tonnage of 45,097 tons are now in construction in the shipbuilding yards of Spain, but even the utmost efforts can not for some time replace the losses sustained.

TAPA DESIGNS USED ON HAWAIIAN POTTERY.

[A. P. Taylor, commercial agent, Honolulu.]

Pottery, which has been added to the list of manufactures in Hawaii, is painted after designs of ancient tapas of the islands. Tapa was used for coverings in general by the ancient islanders, and particularly for clothing. Tree fiber was reduced to a pulp, the water was squeezed out, and then it was spread over a log and beaten out to parchment thinness with wooden blocks. When the sheets were of proper size and had been dried, designs were imprinted on the surfaces by means of wooden blocks, in which the designs were cut with stone implements. For coloring, the ancient Hawaiians obtained various hues from trees, herbs, earth, and fishes. These unique designs have retained all their brilliancy, particularly those in the Bishop Museum, although they are 100 to 200 years old. The coloring in particular is almost perfect.

Designs for tapa in ancient times were to some extent "copyrighted" or "tabued" by families or clans, much as Scottish clans had the right to use certain designs. Kings and chiefs used tapa patterns which could not be used by others. These designs have been transferred with brush and oils to pottery.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO OPEN OFFICE IN NEW YORK.

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 27.]

The Comptroller General of Customs has recently announced that, owing to the increased trade between the United States and Australia, the Commonwealth Government has decided to establish an office in New York under the control of an officer whose principal functions would be to investigate into the value for duty of goods exported to Australia, but who would also be supplied with the necessary data for answering questions relating not only to practices of this department but to trade generally so far as it comes within the province of Government control.

DECREASE IN IMPORTS OF COTTON AT GENOA.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Italy, Oct. 14.]

According to unofficial statistics the imports of cotton at Genoa during the period September 1, 1915–August 31, 1916, show a considerable falling off from the figures of the previous year. The decline is notable not only in American, but also in Indian and Egyptian cottons. There are slight gains from other sources.

Kind of cotton.	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
American.....	1,105,346	833,001
Indian.....	224,826	187,689
Egyptian.....	151,127	66,995
Other.....	30,333	49,064
Total.....	1,511,632	1,136,749

In explanation of the above quantities it should be stated that there is considerable difference in the weight of bales imported from various places. Estimating the American square bales at 520 pounds and round bales at 250 pounds, the Egyptian at 725, Indian at 400, and other importations at 475 pounds, the following computation will give a more accurate idea of the actual amount of cotton imported during 1915 from various countries:

Kind of cotton.	Actual number of bales.	Equivalent to—	
		Pounds.	500-pound bales.
American:			
Square.....	743,400		
Round.....	89,592	408,970,680	817,941
Indian.....	187,689	75,075,600	150,151
Egyptian.....	66,995	48,571,375	97,143
Other.....	49,064	23,305,400	46,611
Total.....	1,136,749	555,923,055	1,111,846

Genoa receives its American cotton from Galveston, New York, New Orleans, Savannah, Wilmington, and Pensacola, small additional quantities being bought from Liverpool, England. The Indian cotton is chiefly from Bombay, Calcutta ranking second. The Egyptian fiber is shipped from Alexandria.

SPAIN PROLONGS ITS RESERVATION ON POTASH LANDS.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona.]

By a royal decree of October 1, 1914 [see Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Nov. 6, 1914], the Spanish Government reserved to itself the right of exploitation of the potash deposits of the Provinces of Barcelona and Lerida. This reservation was made for two years and should expire on October 1, 1916, but a royal order published on September 28, 1916, extends the reservation in favor of the State for another two years.

In connection with the publication of this order the Government notes that it has not yet been able to undertake work on these potash lands, owing to the lack of sufficient appropriations. The royal order authorizes the Geological Institute of Spain to draw up an estimate of the expenses likely to be incurred in investigating the deposits.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING SHIPMENTS TO SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 22.]

Practically all goods imported into Siam enter through the port of Bangkok. The only exceptions are occasional shipments for the Siamese Malay States. The central customhouse is at Bangkok, but there are no customs storehouses, as all goods are landed in godowns belonging to the respective shipping companies. No part of a shipment may be removed from a godown until the importer has made out a customs declaration, to which the original invoice should be attached, showing the number, net weight, and value of each class of goods, and that the customs duty has been paid. A certificate of origin is not necessary and an affidavit is not required on invoices.

With the exception of morphine, cocaine, firearms, and ammunition there are no laws affecting shipments which would be likely to cause a fine if not followed.

Tariff Provisions—Special Licenses and Permits.

The import duty is 3 per cent ad valorem on all classes of goods, manufactured as well as raw products, and it is levied on the entire shipment, inclusive of containers, packing and packing cases, insurance, cost of freight, and all other charges. The duty on beer and wine, however, is 5 per cent ad valorem, and pure spirits pay a duty of about 74 cents per gallon. The invoice, in addition to value, should show the quantities of these fluids in gallons.

Imports of morphine and cocaine are permitted by licensed parties only, and for firearms and ammunition special permits are required. No restrictions are placed on imports of foodstuffs. No special marking is required on packages, and goods for which duty has been paid on first entry do not pay extra duty on being forwarded to the interior.

These are the conditions to be met where shipments are made to Siam direct and are not transhipped through the British ports of Singapore and Hongkong. Through those ports, however, practically all shipments must pass on their way to Bangkok on account of the fact that at present there is no direct shipping connection between the United States and Siam.

NEW WARD LINE SERVICE TO SALINA CRUZ.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Oct. 28.]

The first ship of the Ward Line (New York & Cuban Mail Steamship Co.) in the new service between New York and Salina Cruz, Mexico—the *Jalisco*—has passed through the Panama Canal on its way to Salina Cruz. [As stated in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 13, 1916, the *Jalisco* was the first vessel flying the Cuban flag to make the transit of the canal.] There is to be in this service a ship every 21 days, the next one being the *Mexico II*. These vessels will stop at all ports between Balboa and Salina Cruz.

It is announced that the Seattle Construction & Drydock Co. has recently launched the *Cauto* and will soon launch the *Panuco* for the Ward Line. It is expected that the company will put these boats into service between New York and Salina Cruz. The line will carry both freight and passengers, though the freight business will be its most important feature.

EXPERT VIEWS ON COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

A report on the commercial education subsection of the second Pan American Scientific Congress has been prepared by the United States Bureau of Education as Bulletin No. 25 of 1916. The object of the publication is to preserve the best of the substance of the papers that were read before that branch of the congress, and to meet a demand that has been created by the increasing general interest in commercial education in all parts of the country, especially in the centers of urban population.

Scope of the Scientific Congress.

The introduction to the bulletin presents a general statement of the scope of the scientific congress, which embraced 9 main sections and 45 subsections. No. 4 of the main sections was devoted to education. The names of the many distinguished educators who had charge of the 10 subsections of this division are given in the monograph. The respective topics of these subsections were elementary education, secondary education, university education, education of women, exchange of professors and students, engineering education, medical education, agricultural education, industrial education, and commercial education.

The subcommittee in charge of commercial education decided to invite the preparation of papers which, when printed, would be a permanent contribution to this phase of educational work. These papers are declared to have offered a new body of material from which to proceed for further study and incorporation in the proceedings of subsequent congresses. The work was deemed of paramount importance at this time, not only for economic reasons of higher efficiency in the organization of business and the marketing of products at home and abroad, but also as a means of acquiring by study the international way of looking at things, and of assisting in establishing international amity.

In view of the fact that certain private educational agencies, established solely for the purpose or as a part of a mercantile, manufacturing, or exporting system, have been prominent in the United States in offering specific or general courses of business, the committee included in its program papers from most of these agencies.

Subjects Discussed by Subsection.

The abstracts of papers with the general comments on the conference make up a volume of 96 pages, which should be of special interest to all who seek the advancement of commercial training. Among the specific subjects discussed by leaders in education, business, and public affairs were the proper use of business experts in class instruction on domestic and foreign commerce; commercial education in Latin America, Germany, and England; how to obtain properly prepared instructors; commercial education in elementary and secondary schools and colleges; languages, geography, history, government, mathematics, banking and finance, statistics, accounting, business law, business ethics and psychology, and business organization and administration. There are also discussions of the important institutions which give special courses in commerce.

Copies of the publication may be obtained at 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

RAILWAY EXPANSION IN BRITISH MALAYA.

[Chamber of Commerce Journal.]

In his report on the Federated Malay States for the past year, Sir E. L. Brockman, Chief Secretary, deals very fully with the development of the railway system in the Malay Peninsula and the growth in importance of Penang, which promises to equal in the north the part played by Singapore in the south. During 1915 there was an extension in the railway system of 49 miles, of which 41 miles were in the State of Kedah. The branch line from Kuang Junction to the Malayan Collieries (6 miles) was also opened, and the Kelantan line, on the northeastern side of the Peninsula, was extended from Tanah Merah to the Kelantan River. The total train mileage was 3,199,177, a decrease of 196,908 compared with 1914. The number of passengers carried was 11,899,028, a decrease of 75,717; goods traffic fell off by 39,872 tons, the total being 1,100,381 tons; but the year's traffic receipts were only \$12,780 (U. S. currency) below those of 1914. There was an increase in the cattle traffic, 104,822 head being carried, compared with 91,866 in 1914. The amount spent on construction was \$1,541,700, as compared with \$5,554,615, but this reduction is probably accounted for in large measure by the difficulty of getting supplies from abroad. It may be stated that the Federated Malay States railway system has been built out of Government revenue.

The most important addition under "expenditure on special services, capital account," was the sum of \$303,250 (U. S. currency) as part payment for the purchase from the colony of the Straits Settlements of the Prai Dock property. Part payment only has been made because the Penang Harbor Board is still in occupation of a portion of the premises, and will probably continue to be in possession for some time, pending the construction of other works for the accommodation of the board. This property was taken over in 1914 at a valuation of about \$569,400. Investigations have already been made with a view to improving the landing and shipping facilities at Prai. The works recommended are (1) a pier 1,200 feet in length, (2) an extension, up the river, of the pier to form a deep-water wharf, (3) further extension to form coaling berths, and (4) the dredging of the river. The estimated cost of these works is \$4,205,875, exclusive of equipment, which will cost about \$462,300.

IMPORTS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS BY UNITED STATES.

The increasing dependence of the United States on the Tropics for foodstuffs and raw materials not produced in this country is shown by figures given in the publication "Imports of merchandise by articles and countries, 1911-1915," which has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

More than a billion dollars' worth of tropical products were brought into this country during the fiscal year 1916. The exact total was \$1,060,870,416, and this was a decided increase over the \$807,612,182 of 1915, the \$705,511,552 in 1905, and the \$303,476,706 in 1895. These were mainly foodstuffs and raw materials not produced in the United States and certain other products grown in our insular territories.

Sugar heads the list, with imports valued at \$314,000,000 in the fiscal year 1916. That sum represents an increase of \$57,000,000 over 1915 and of \$156,000,000 over 1914. India rubber, gutta-percha,

gutta joolatong, and other substitutes for rubber showed imports in 1916 valued at \$159,000,000 as against \$86,000,000 in the preceding year. Imports of raw silk amounted in value to \$124,000,000, a 50 per cent increase over 1915; coffee, \$116,000,000, an increase of about 8 per cent over 1915; fibers other than flax, \$56,000,000, an increase of almost 50 per cent; fruits and nuts, \$55,000,000, a very slight increase; raw cotton, \$40,000,000, an increase of about 70 per cent; tobacco and its manufactures, \$38,000,000, a decrease of about \$2,750,000; and cocoa and chocolate, \$36,000,000, an increase of 50 per cent over 1915.

Other important items in this group are vegetable oils, \$34,000,000, against \$25,000,000 in 1915; tea, \$21,000,000, compared with \$18,000,000 last year; gums, \$15,000,000, against \$12,000,000 in 1915; dye-woods and extracts, \$10,000,000, against \$5,000,000 in 1915; spices, \$9,000,000, against \$6,000,000 in 1915; indigo, \$8,000,000, against \$1,600,000 in the preceding year; rice, \$6,200,000, against \$6,400,000 in 1915; and cabinet woods, \$4,000,000, against \$4,300,000 in 1915. Feathers, ivory, sago and tapioca, vanilla beans, licorice root, opium, quinine-bearing barks, and sponges, in sums varying from about \$3,000,000 down to less than \$1,000,000 each, complete the list of the more important tropical and subtropical products imported.

The following shows the growth in the quantity of specified tropical products imported into the United States from foreign countries and its tropical islands, Porto Rico and Hawaii:

Articles.	1905	1915	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Sugar.....	4,517,000,000	7,288,000,000	7,618,000,000
Coffee.....	1,051,000,000	1,127,000,000	1,204,000,000
Fibers.....	665,000,000	788,000,000	1,066,000,000
Rubber, etc.....	68,000,000	197,000,000	304,000,000
Rice.....	109,000,000	287,000,000	238,000,000
Cotton.....	85,000,000	197,000,000	233,000,000
Cocoa.....	74,000,000	192,000,000	243,000,000
Tea.....	103,000,000	97,000,000	110,000,000
Spices.....	53,000,000	67,000,000	83,000,000
Tobacco, leaf.....	55,000,000	53,000,000	55,000,000
Silk, raw.....	22,000,000	31,000,000	42,000,000

* Includes rubber and gutta percha only for 1905.

"Imports of merchandise by articles and countries, 1911-1915," may be bought for the nominal price of 30 cents either from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

DIRECT RESULTS FROM "FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES."

The district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in New York is in receipt of a letter from the manager of a general export commission house in that city, stating that as a direct result of answering a foreign trade opportunity announcement published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* it has secured orders from a foreign electrical supply house for goods amounting to \$25,000, and that permanent and profitable connections have been made with firms in Great Britain. The export firm further states that as a result of reading the Foreign Trade Opportunity column it has secured new business in the Far East, Latin America, and Scandinavian countries for automobile tires, hosiery, potatoes, oleomargarine, and music.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

JAPAN SENDING PAPER PULP ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

[Extract from Japan Times, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 8.]

Attention is directed to the development of the manufacture of paper pulp in Hokkaido and Karafuto by the report that Japan is becoming a pulp exporter to America and India. Since the outbreak of the war in Europe the manufacture of paper pulp has been well maintained, as all the circumstances are in favor of its development. Dense forests in Hokkaido and Karafuto supply excellent material, while coal and sulphur are cheap. Japan, indeed, is more favorably situated than Scandinavian countries in these respects.

The pulp market here remains heavy, and prices are below those quoted in Sweden and Norway. Not only are there no imports of pulp into Japan at present, but it is easy for Japanese manufacturers to compete in Europe and America, at least as far as prices are concerned.

[A report on the wood-pulp surplus in Japan was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 12, 1916.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Telephone cable connection, etc., No. 3812.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 18, 1916, for a telephone cable connection between the Pacific Coast Torpedo Station, Keyport, Wash., and the Puget Sound Navy Yard; also an electric power transmission line from the Olympic Power Company's pole line to the radio building at the above-named torpedo station. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Building construction, No. 3813.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Washington, D. C., until December 14, 1916, for the construction complete of quarantine officers' quarters at United States Quarantine Station, Cape Charles, Va. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian at Fort Monroe, Va., or at the above-named office.

Navy Department supplies, No. 3814.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 381, packing boxes in shooks, diphenylamine, 5 h. p. induction motor, steel tank, and iron casing single-stage centrifugal pump; schedule 382, seamless annealed copper tubing, hard drawn rod torpedo bronze, lead in strips $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in coils of 200 pounds, common steel bars, common plate steel, screw steel and steel (shapes) angles; schedule 383, 40-ton platform scale, railroad type platform scale metal parts only, adjustable round dies, straight shank drills, files, air-pressure gauges, and headless set steel screws; schedule 384, furnishing and installing outfits for carrying away smoke and fumes; schedule 385, Morse taper shank high-speed drills, and white-oak timber; schedule 387, brass tubing, various diameter, rolled brass nuts, brass rivets, brass angles, rolled naval brass, annealed sheet brass, hard rolled bar copper, steel angles, cold rolled flat bar steel, medium bar rivet steel, and rolled sheet zinc; schedule 388, cork disks, leather washers, gaskets, bushings, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch brass pipe plugs, galvanized steel wire rope, phosphor bronze wire, galvanized steel bolts, $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint oil cans, hasps, hinges, etc., pillars, punches, screw drivers, etc., flat steel rivets, galvanized steel shackles, thimbles, turnbuckles, etc., helical steel springs, and galvanized steel washers; schedule 389, 4-cycle gasoline engines; schedule 390, grinding machines, and grinding outfit for grinding primer stocks; schedule 391, Universal plate $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cutter, grinder and cutter, 18-inch by 12-foot bed lathe, 10-inch engine lathe, 3-inch by 36-inch turret lathe, 16-inch engine lathe, 60-inch drilling and melting boring machine, sensitive drilling belt-driven one-spindle machines, grinding machines, 10-inch by 24-inch grinding machine, heavy milling machine, Universal milling machine, high-power milling machine, and milling bench machines; schedule 392, blue-printing machine; schedule 393, disk and roll sander grinder; schedule 394, steam-heated sterilizing outfits and portable sterile dressing lockers (combination), and plunger pumps.

Post-office construction, No. 3815.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1916, for the construction of post office at Frederick, Md. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the custodian of the site or at the above-named office.

Miscellaneous repairs, No. 3816.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 18, 1916, for miscellaneous repairs, new roof, etc., for laundry building, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D. C. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Paper, No. 3817.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 23, 1916, for printing 5 reams note paper, 3 reams typewriter letter paper, and 10 quires note paper. Further particulars may be had on application to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Boilers and engines.....	23017	Packing-house products.....	23013
Bottles for water coolers.....	23015	Paints.....	23018
Cordage.....	23016	Pharmaceutical accessories.....	23022
Crockery and metal ware.....	23016	Pianos.....	23021
Dynamoes and specialties.....	23017	Pipes.....	23017
Electric fans and fixtures.....	23016	Pumps.....	23016, 23017
Factory equipment.....	23017	Racks, price card.....	23019
Flour and provisions.....	23013	Sanitary fixtures.....	23016
Furniture.....	23016	Stationery.....	23016
Glucose.....	23014	Stoves.....	23016
Grindstones.....	23016	Syringes.....	23022
Hardware.....	23016	Thermometers, clinical.....	23022
Iron bolts and chains.....	23016	Tobacco.....	23018
Kitchen utensils.....	23016	Tools, machinists'.....	23017
Ladders.....	23020	Typewriters.....	23016, 23018
Lanterns.....	23016	Water filters.....	23016
Machinery.....	23017	Weighing machines.....	23016
Motors and motor vehicles.....	23017	Window glass.....	23016
Nails.....	23016		

23013.†—A firm in Porto Rico, having agents in all important towns, desires to communicate with American exporters of packing-house products and provisions of all kinds, desiring a general agency in that island.

23014.†—A manufacturers' agent in Switzerland desires to represent an American manufacturer of glucose.

23015.*—A firm in Canada is in the market for glass bottles or jars for water coolers.

23016.*—An import firm in West Africa desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of electric fixtures, sanitary fixtures, iron and wooden furniture, kitchen utensils, enameled ware, aluminum ware, nickel ware, crockery, water filters, cook stoves, lanterns, iron bolts and nails, locks, window glass, iron chains, rope and cordage, oil stoves, weighing machines (metric system), grindstones, stationery, pumps, hardware, electric fans, typewriters, leaf tobacco, and paints. Correspondence in French.

23017.†—A Scandinavian business man who has been in the United States four years will shortly return to his native country. He desires to communicate with American manufacturers with a view to establishing sales agencies in Norway and Sweden for general machinery and factory equipment, paper-making machinery, motors and motor vehicles, water pipes and pumps, steam boilers, armatures, steam engines, electric dynamos and specialties, and machinists' tools. References.

23018.*—A commission merchant in Spain desires to secure the agency for an American typewriter.

23019.*—A firm in Canada is in the market for "purchase price card racks."

23020.*—Quotations are desired in a foreign colonial possession on ladders standing 30 feet. Further information may be obtained from the bureau or its district offices.

23021.*—A firm in Central America is in the market for two or three pianos, upright, ebony finish, costing from \$250 to \$300 f. o. b. New York City. Additional orders may be placed later. These pianos should be built for the Tropics to withstand atmospheric conditions. References.

23022.*—A firm in France wishes to represent American manufacturers of clinical thermometers, syringes, and similar pharmaceutical accessories.

PRINCETON N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 271 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 17 1916

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TAMPICO'S OIL SHIPMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Oct. 11.]

Declared exports of crude oil and petroleum products from the Tampico district to the United States in September, 1916, reached a total of 1,900,689 barrels (42 gallons each), or some 214,000 barrels less than in August. Of the total, 1,329,337 barrels were shipped from Tampico and 571,352 from Tuxpam. Shipments to points other than the United States are reported as 126,435 barrels from Tampico and 420,497 from Tuxpam. Therefore the total oil movement from the Tampico fields during September reached 2,447,621 barrels, compared with the August total of 2,872,939 barrels.

As usual, only crude oil was shipped from Tuxpam, and nearly one-third of the total went to Coatzacoalcas, Mexico, for refining purposes. The Tampico movement included 81,572 barrels of re-duced crude, 83,807 barrels of fuel oil, 78,500 barrels of distillate, 19,618 of gas oil, and 1,705 of kerosene.

CANADIAN SHIPBUILDING PROGRESS.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nov. 1.]

The ways at the Bentley yard at West Advocate, Nova Scotia, were cleared by the launching, on October 30, of the three masted schooner *Cumberland County*, 419 tons register, and a larger vessel, it is reported, will be laid down immediately and finished as rapidly as is consistent with good workmanship. The *Cumberland County* was chartered to load lumber for a Cuban port prior to taking the water.

The Canadian Lumberman reprints from the Liverpool (England) Journal of Commerce a statement regarding Canadian shipbuilding. It says:

It has been hinted that Messrs. Vickers & Co. contemplate a considerable expansion in Canada, and there is linked with the name of this firm that of Messrs. Yarrow, of Scotstown, who already are directly interested in an

extremely important ship-repairing and shipbuilding enterprise on the west coast of Canada. The firm of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. realized the potentialities of Canada for shipbuilding purposes and has been engaged for some time there. It is further interesting to hear the suggestion that Messrs. Cammell, Laird & Co., and also Messrs. John Brown & Co., Clydebank, are on the point of laying plans for shipbuilding in Canada.

The Dominion Government is offering inducements to these firms, and it may be announced in the future that Canada will be building many of its own ships.

[An article on the revival of shipbuilding interest in Nova Scotia was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 14, 1916.]

FRENCH COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Oct. 27.]

The French Minister of Agriculture has recently established a commission on farming machinery (Commission de la Culture Mécanique) to study the problem involved in the employment after the war of improved machinery for farming purposes. In the report accompanying the decree which establishes the commission, the Minister has outlined the work which that body is called upon to accomplish.

It is estimated that 200 farm tractors have been purchased since the war, and that this number could be increased to 2,000 immediately after the cessation of hostilities. To satisfy the needs of French farms in this direction, there should be added to these 2,000 tractors 110,000 plows, 50,000 harrows, 22,000 sowing machines, and 5,000 reapers. It is particularly pointed out that in order to furnish this large quantity of farm appliances it is indispensable not to wait until the end of hostilities, and to ascertain first of all to what extent French makers of agricultural machinery can satisfy these needs and, subsequently, to get in touch with foreign manufacturers in order to assure the necessary imports. It is equally indispensable to work out the financial arrangements that will be necessary to enable the great majority of farmers to acquire this equipment, and to furnish the necessary means to the agricultural organizations that will have to be created in order to facilitate the solution of the financial problems growing out of so extensive a program. In this connection the intervention and assistance of the Government will be necessary.

Moreover, the Minister of Agriculture points out that French manufacturers should be furnished with the information necessary to enable them to build the machines and appliances that are best adapted to the needs of the soil. It has often been assumed that France is a country of large farms, when as a matter of fact the so-called large landed estates (those having more than 100 acres) number only 138,000 in a total of 5,688,000 farm units.

Finally, to operate the innumerable machines which it is hoped will be employed throughout the length and breadth of France, there will be need of an army of trained mechanics, and of persons competent to run these appliances, but the farming youth of France has not generally received the technical education that is necessary. Hence, the Minister of Agriculture urges that steps be taken at once to train young men for these tasks.

TROLLEY SYSTEM PROPOSED FOR EDINBURGH.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Scotland, Oct. 23.]

Edinburgh's town council resolved some months ago to take over and operate the street railway system, which consists of cable lines. It was built by the city in 1898 and leased for 21 years to a private company, at an annual rental of 7 per cent on the invested capital of £1,300,000 (\$6,326,450). A committee of experts was appointed by the council to consider what method of traction should be adopted on the expiration of the lease to the private company on June 30, 1919. This committee has reported in favor of an overhead electric trolley system.

The capital required for the installation and equipment of an extended system—25 miles of existing double track, and 9 miles extension—is estimated at £936,500 (\$4,557,477), compared with an estimated cost of £1,335,750 (\$6,500,427) for an electric conduit system, with no extension of lines.

Would Start Work at Once on Overhead System.

The committee finds that it is practicable to begin the installation of the overhead system immediately, and to have it ready for operation on the expiration of the present lease. The corporation's electric-power station, now under construction, will supply ample current for the proposed new electric tramways.

Opinion in the town council, as well as public opinion, seems to be sharply divided between the conduit and overhead systems, and final action may be considerably delayed.

CANADIAN BANK INTERESTED IN TRADE WITH ITALY.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Nov. 10.]

It is announced that the Canadian Bank of Commerce has acquired an interest in the British-Italian Corporation. An agreement was signed in London in March last between the London County and Westminster Bank (Ltd.) and Lloyds Bank (Ltd.) on one side, as representing a British financial group, and the Credito Italiano on the other side, as representing an Italian financial group, for the constitution of a British company, to be called the British-Italian Corporation, with an authorized capital of £1,000,000 (\$4,867,000 at the normal exchange rate), and the constitution also of an Italian company under the style of the Compagnia Italo-Britannica, with a capital of 10,000,000 lire (\$1,930,000 at the normal exchange rate). The object of the two companies is the development of the economic relations between Great Britain and Italy and the promotion of undertakings in the commercial and industrial field in Italy. The companies will work in close association. They will carry on the kind of financial business conducted by Continental banks, and more especially by the banks of Germany, for the purpose of fostering trade and assisting manufacturers. The organization marks a new departure of great importance, and the participation of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in the undertaking is the welding of a financial link which ultimately will be of considerable benefit to Canadian trade and commerce.

FOREIGN SHIPS IN DOMINICAN COASTWISE TRADE.

[Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Ziellinski, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Nov. 3.]

A decree has recently been published which permits foreign ships to enter the coastwise trade of the Dominican Republic in case there are no Dominican ships available at the time of shipment. This permission is of considerable advantage to American ships, which almost entirely frequent these ports. In the past it was impossible to take goods from one Dominican port to another, and as there were practically no native ships trading between the port of Santo Domingo and any port north of La Romana all commerce was stopped, because no roads lead from the southern to the northern part. The first ship that was able to take advantage of this new rule was the American steamer *Iroquois*, which about a week ago took a cargo worth more than \$20,000 from here to Samana, Sanchez, and Puerto Plata.

In order to facilitate prompt action, arrangements have been made whereby the shipping companies are notified 24 hours ahead whether or not they can take cargo.

Santo Domingo a Distributing Center.

Santo Domingo city is the principal import center of the Republic, and goods are shipped here from the United States for distribution over a considerable part of the country. The majority of exclusive agencies are held by local concerns, and up to now they were unable to take full advantage of their rights in selling the goods, as they could only ship them with great delay and difficulty on small schooners.

Any arrangement which facilitates better selling possibilities for the local agents will naturally benefit the American manufacturer whom they represent.

NEW GERMAN INSURANCE COMPANY FOR UNSAFE RISKS.

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, Oct. 17.]

More than 10 per cent of those persons who apply for life insurance in Germany annually are refused. As the war has demonstrated the necessity for all classes of people to carry insurance, a movement was begun to form a company that would insure all persons refused by the usual life insurance organizations. Toward the end of 1915 the directors of the Stuttgart Insurance Association called together the representatives of the 20 most prominent German life insurance companies in order to formulate rates and conditions for the insurance of unsafe risks. All the representatives agreed that a great gap in the organization of life insurance would be filled if a company could be formed which could insure persons who had hitherto been refused.

The outcome of these negotiations was the establishment of a new company called "Die Hilfe" ("The Aid"), which has a capital of 3,000,000 marks (\$714,000), all of which was subscribed by the participating life insurance companies. To date 18 large life insurance companies have contributed to the new company, many of them well known in German insurance circles—such as the Victoria, the Friedrich Wilhelm, the Berlin Life Insurance Co., the Concordia, and the Wilhelma.

Work and Organization of New Company.

An economic journal thus summarizes the work and organization of the new company:

The individual company relinquishes its quota of "unsafe risks," which is relatively small as compared with the total volume of business, in favor of the central organization, the "Hilfe." While this fact alone may be regarded as an advance in the solution of the problem of the insurance of abnormal lives, toward which many vain attempts have been made by various companies, a further advantage is that a considerable saving can be effected in the expenditures for canvassing and for fighting competition as "die Hilfe" engages in business solely through the medium of the companies to which it is annexed and, consequently, can dispense with a special canvassing service.

The "Hilfe" accepts requests for insurance up to 100,000 marks (\$23,800) without question. From the first year after the insurance was written the individual underwriter participates in the net profit according to the amount of annual premium collected. If death occurs during the first year, only the premium paid in will be paid to the heirs; if it occurs during the second year, half of the amount insured will be refunded; and from the third year on the full amount will be paid. The new company, in its infancy, made provision for war insurance.

Without doubt this new organization is an important advance in the realm of life insurance. The new company is greeted with satisfaction in insurance circles, and it is now believed that the problem of the persons denied insurance will be largely solved. In this new undertaking, the companies concerned represent more than half of the entire German life-insurance business. A similar movement has been started in Austria-Hungary, and it also will doubtless materialize if the German undertaking is successful.

THIRD BRAZILIAN FRUIT EXPOSITION.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau L. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 19.]

Announcement has just been made by the Permanent Commission in charge of Brazilian expositions that the third annual exposition-fair of fruits, vegetables, flowers, garden crops, and derived industries will be opened at Rio de Janeiro on January 28 next and will last for eight days. The Federal Government is taking a decided interest in the matter, and so is the National Society of Agriculture, and the Permanent Exposition Commission itself, which is composed of men of prominence, is throwing all its influence into making the affair a success.

There is here an opportunity for North Americans to exhibit their wares, and not only to make their products known and sought after in Brazil but possibly in competition to win some of the many diplomas and awards that are offered. At a similar exposition here in the past [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 23 and June 24, 1916] one American firm carried off two first prizes and highest awards for brooders and incubators, and another won a first prize for its exhibit of raisins and dried fruits.

The Rio de Janeiro consulate general will be glad to put any Americans who may be interested in this matter in touch with the proper persons here. It should be remembered that it takes about three weeks for a letter from the United States to reach its destination in Brazil, so there is not as much time in which to make arrangements as would at first sight appear.

[In this connection the review of the Brazilian fruit trade that was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 17, 1916, should be of interest.]

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**CANADA.**

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nov. 2.]

Moncton Enlarges Its Telephone Exchange.

To provide accommodation for the increased staff necessitated by an increased number of subscribers the New Brunswick Telephone Co. (Ltd.) is building extensive additions to its Moncton exchange. The frontage of the present structure is 18 feet and the depth 52 feet. The addition will run back for 24 feet at the 18-foot width and at an increased width of 25 feet for 34 feet. The building will be two stories in height, built of brick, with graystone facings. The foundations will be of concrete, the idea being to make the premises fire-proof throughout. In its interior arrangements the enlarged exchange will show many improvements designed to facilitate the operation of the service and to provide conveniences for the employees.

The telephone installations on this circuit now total about 1,725, which include 150 new connections since the beginning of the current calendar year.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Ziehlinski, Santo Domingo, Nov. 3.]

Material for New Customhouse.

The contract for the construction of the new customhouse at Santo Domingo was awarded to Mr. J. C. Alfonseca, of Santo Domingo, he being the lowest bidder.

A copy of the requirements giving in detail the work to be done is transmitted herewith, together with the estimates of the several bidders, which range from \$37,004 to \$61,217. American firms should at once get in touch with the successful contractor in order to find a sale for the material needed by him to construct the building. Plans of the same were furnished by the Director General of Public Works and the announcement published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 24, 1916.

[The copy of the requirements referred to, with the estimates of the several bidders, can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81878.]

IRELAND.

[Vice Consul Charles C. Broy, Dublin, Oct. 10.]

Rebuilding of Destroyed Portion of Dublin.

It is understood that architects are beginning work on plans for the rebuilding of the portion of the city of Dublin, destroyed in April, 1916. The buildings totally or partly destroyed numbered about 200, nearly all of which were in the business section of the city. The loss, including buildings and contents, has been estimated at about \$12,000,000. A plan of the district in which most of the property loss occurred accompanies this report [and may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 81824].

It is suggested that American suppliers of building material might communicate with the architects in Dublin. It is believed that most

of them will have some of the work and probably determine in many cases the materials to be used in the new buildings.

American firms desiring to secure a part of this business are also advised to communicate with the local contractors. They will probably have most of the building contracts.

Use of Old Material.

It is understood that in the reconstruction a considerable amount of old material, where fit for such use, will be used again. This will probably be the case principally in brick structures where the old bricks have not been too badly damaged. It is expected that brick and stone will be used to a considerable extent in the new buildings, but a quantity of structural iron and steel will also doubtless be required. Slate is used very largely for roofing in Dublin. Not many elevators are likely to be installed. Few buildings here exceed four stories, and many are only three in height.

Lists of the principal premises totally or partly destroyed, by street and number, with the names of the principal occupants of each place and the nature of the business conducted therein are transmitted. From this list interested firms will be able to get a general idea of the classes of supplies that will be required in the equipment of the new buildings to be constructed, as in many cases the new buildings will be used for the same purposes as the old and by the old occupants.

[The names of the architects and contractors in Dublin, also the names of the principal occupants of the destroyed area, can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81824.]

SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona.]

Municipal School Buildings in Barcelona.

An elaborate plan for the construction of public schools is being considered by the municipality of Barcelona, and if it be adopted, although the contracts will probably be awarded to Spanish firms, the carrying out of the work may involve the purchase of material outside of the country.

There are at present 15,000 pupils enrolled in the municipal schools of Barcelona. Of these 2,500 are in schools owned by the city and 12,500 in other quarters, for which the city paid nearly \$50,000 in rents last year. This number of pupils added to 48,000 in private schools makes a total of 63,000, but there were recently 82,237 children counted in Barcelona between the ages of 4 and 12.

The rents paid for schools represent the interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on a capital of \$1,080,000, with the likelihood of considerable increases in the future.

Groups of Buildings to be Erected.

In 1908 it was proposed to construct four groups of buildings, each to house 400 pupils, or a total of 1,600. These buildings were to cost \$435,600. In 1912, upon the initiative of a reform commission, competitive bids were received for a project to accommodate 20,000 scholars. The estimated cost was \$3,740,350. It is now suggested to provide for 37 groups of buildings to house from 15,000 to 18,000 pupils, the ground for 10 groups being already owned by the

municipality and that for the remaining 27 groups still to be acquired. The general appropriations for housing 18,000 pupils, added to 2,500 now in schools owned by the city, would provide for an increased school attendance of 20,500. Abandoning the rented quarters the estimated expenses to the city for ground, construction of 37 groups of buildings, plans, direction, and unforeseen outlays would be about \$2,025,000, of which \$1,321,920 is to be devoted to the buildings.

With its present resources the city will require 10 years for the complete development of the project in question, although this period may perhaps be shortened. Each year it would be necessary to build three or four groups, which would house about 1,800, or 10 per cent of the total number of pupils to be provided for. The rented quarters are to be abandoned as soon as new buildings are available, the rents thus saved to be applied to the building fund. The creation of a school architectural bureau is also under consideration, as necessary for the interests of the municipality.

[Those Interested should correspond, in Spanish, with the persons whose names can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81817.]

EXPORTS FROM PORT LIMON TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul Albert B. Pullen, Port Limon, Costa Rica, Nov. 1.]

The value of the exports from the consular district of Port Limon for the United States during the first 10 months of 1916, according to invoices certified at this consulate, was \$3,372,090, compared with \$2,753,712 during the similar period in 1915. While bananas and coffee, the two leading articles of export, show good increases, sugar shows the greatest gains. The following table gives the principal items invoiced for the 10 months, with their value:

Articles.	Jan.-Oct., 1915.	Jan.-Oct., 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-Oct., 1915.	Jan.-Oct., 1916.
Bananas	\$1,979,651	\$2,150,399	Rubber	\$27,250	\$48,755
Coffee	555,257	785,060	Gold	6,658	.....
Sugar	64,780	256,283	All other articles.....	11,107	26,532
H des	43,637	66,233			
Cattle	36,180	.....	Total.....	2,753,712	3,372,090
Cocoa	29,212	38,528			

OCCULTING BLINDS FOR RANGE LIGHTS TESTED.

The satisfactory operation of new occulting mechanism which has been tried in this country is reported by the United States Bureau of Lighthouses. The outfits were manufactured at the general lighthouse depot, Tompkinsville, N. Y., and were installed on two fourth-order range lights in the fourth district. They were designed to replace the old-style "pile driver" occulting mechanisms. Each consists of a frame placed in front of the lens, carrying multiple vertical metal vanes or shutters pivoted on their vertical axes and arranged to be rotated through an angle of 90 degrees by means of connecting rods. Movement is imparted to the connecting rods through links connected to a bell crank, which in turn is operated by a cam on the operating clock. The mechanism is arranged to give an instantaneous opening and closing of the shutters.

PROPOSED NEW PACIFIC PORT FOR COLOMBIA.

The Colombian Congress recently passed a law providing for a survey of the Bay of Malaga, or Magdalena, on the Pacific coast of Colombia, and the commission to be appointed to make the surveys will also make an investigation of the conditions at Buenaventura and the estimated cost of the work necessary to put that port in a permanently sanitary condition. This commission will be composed of two officials and such engineers and physicians as may be designated by the Colombian Society of Engineers and the Academy of Medicine, respectively, besides two foreign experts, if the Government considers this advisable.

Comparative Cost of New Port and Improvement of Buenaventura.

The investigation of the commission will include a study of the maritime advantages of the Bay of Malaga and the work which would be necessary to render it adequate to the increasing demands of commerce and navigation. The commission will make a report on the natural conditions of the bay, the neighboring territory and waters, and the local facilities for the establishment of a modern city. The surveys to be made include a route for a branch of the Pacific Railway from the nearest station to the site selected for a port in the Bay of Malaga. For comparison with the estimated cost of establishing a new port, including docks, customhouses, warehouses, sanitation, etc., the commission will prepare estimates of the cost of all needed improvements at Buenaventura, including the reconstruction of the Pacific Railway from Buenaventura to San Jose.

Authorization for Loan for Port Works.

If the report of the commission should show that it would be better to establish a new port in the Bay of Malaga than to improve the port of Buenaventura, the Colombian Government will proceed at once to execute the port works, either directly or through a contracting party. For the construction of a new port the Government is authorized to contract a loan of \$5,000,000 in a foreign country on the best possible terms. This loan would be secured, according to the text of the law in a recent issue of the *Diario Oficial*, by the custom receipts of the port of Buenaventura and those of the new port in the Bay of Malaga, as well as by such other revenues as the Government may decide to offer. [Reference to the sanitation difficulties in Buenaventura was made in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 22, 1916.]

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENDOWS SCHOLARSHIP.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, France, Oct. 27.]

The French Chamber of Commerce, of Milan, Italy, has just established an endowment which will permit the payment of 1,500 francs (about \$300) a year to a French student of commerce to enable him to study the Italian language and Italian business methods in Italy. In commenting upon this item of news several French publications held up the action of the Milan chamber as an example to other commercial bodies in France and abroad, and pointed out that steps of this kind are an especially desirable means of contributing to a country's economic expansion.

CANNING OPERATIONS IN GRAYFISH CAMPAIGN.

While the quantity of canned grayfish available this year will not be as large as originally proposed on account of the late date at which packing began, it is expected that it will suffice for a demonstration to both the public and the canners that the fish is destined to be an important food product.

Early in October the deputy commissioner of the United States Bureau of Fisheries visited Portland, Me., and Gloucester, Mass., to present to the packers the necessity of canning all fish obtainable until the close of the season. It was found that the grayfish was not available in quantities in the vicinity of Portland at that time, but as a result of the visit to Gloucester, and the activity of an agent of the bureau in the field, reasonable quantities have been brought to that place and Boston, and all obtainable are being packed.

Rush Order Follows Original Shipment.

The growing interest in grayfish is indicated by the reception accorded a recent shipment to a city in the Middle West. Fifty cases were sent through regular commercial channels, without advertising or local publicity measures other than the supply of one case as samples for the trade. On October 27 the packer received from the broker in that city a telegram ordering 100 cases to be "rushed."

The experiments in utilizing the by-products of the grayfish have recently resulted in the demonstration that the eggs are valuable for leather dressing, and there is now a market for all produced at 2 cents per pound. The bureau also is having some of the fish tested as a bait for crabs in the Chesapeake Bay region.

WOOLEN CLOTH USED BY THE INDIANS OF PERU.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Sept. 23.]

There is being submitted with this report a sample of woollen cloth, which attracted my attention on a recent trip to the highlands of Peru. Practically all the Indian women and children, and not a few of the men, were wearing garments made from this cloth. A great many of the blankets used by the natives were simply squares cut from the cloth and hemmed a little at the edges. I noticed the fabric in practically every town which I visited, and in the warehouse of one mercantile company I saw a stock of several hundred small bales, which I was told would be disposed of easily in the course of a few months.

This material, I found upon investigation, was woven in Europe, especially for sale among the Indians of the Andes. It is made in a great variety of solid colors, is 64 inches wide, and comes in bolts containing 30 varas, a vara being 33 inches. A bolt of this goods sells at La Fundicion, near Cerro de Pasco, for 46 soles (about \$23 U. S. currency). The owner of the warehouse above referred to told me that the price had risen considerably of late, and that his last purchase had cost him £7 (\$34) the bolt, c. i. f. Callao.

The market for this material is very extensive and very stable.

[The sample of cloth forwarded by Commercial Attaché Montavon may be inspected by interested American manufacturers at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 1973.]

MINIMUM-WAGE ACTION IN BRITISH TIN BOX TRADE.

[Vice Consul Leslie E. Reed, London, England, Oct. 26.]

The Tin Box Trade Board of Great Britain has announced certain proposed minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the tin box and canister trades of the country. The proposed scale is given in shillings of \$0.243 each and pence of \$0.02 each. The figures are:

1. For male workers of 22 years and upward (and others to whose employment the minimum rate of 26s. per week is applicable under the terms of par. [a] of sec. 1 of the notice dated Nov. 29, 1915), from 26s. to 30s. 4d. per week.
2. For male workers of 21 and under 22 years, from 26s. to 27s. 6d.
3. For male workers of 21 years and upward who have been employed in the trade for an aggregate period of less than 12 months and who can not suitably be employed on piecework, from 22s. 6d. to 26s.
4. For male workers of 20 and under 21 years, from 22s. 6d. to 23s. 6d.
5. For male workers of 19 and under 20 years, from 18s. 6d. to 19s. 6d.
6. For male workers of 18 and under 19 years, from 15s. to 16s. 3d.
7. For male workers of 17 and under 18 years, from 12s. to 13s. 6d.
8. For male workers of 16 and under 17 years, from 10c. to 11s. 6d.
9. For male workers of 15 and under 16 years, from 8s. to 9s.
10. For male workers under 15 years of age, no variation.

Rates Provided for Female Workers.

1. For female workers of 18 years and upward (and others to whose employment the minimum rate of 14s. 1d. per week is applicable under the terms of pars. [a] and [b] of sec. 1 of the notice dated Nov. 29, 1915), from 14s. 1d. to 16s. 3d. per week.
2. For female workers of 18 years and upward who have been employed in the trade for an aggregate period of less than 12 months and can not suitably be employed on piecework, from 12s. to 13s. 6d.
3. For female workers of 17 and under 18 years, from 12s. to 13s. 6d.
4. For female workers of 16 and under 17 years, from 10s. to 11s. 6d.
5. For female workers of 15 and under 16 years, from 8s. to 9s.
6. For female workers under 15 years of age, no variation.

These proposals are on the basis of a week of 52 hours, the rates being subject to a proportionate deduction or increase according as the number of hours actually spent by the worker in the factory or workshop, under contract of employment, in any week is less or more than 52.

The announcement adds that any objections to this proposal, or suggestions for its variation, should be lodged with the trade board within 3 months from the date of announcement.

NEW TYPE OF LOCOMOTIVE IN GERMANY.

[Vice Consul Ernest L. Ives, Breslau, Oct. 9.]

An article recently appeared in the Breslauer Zeitung relative to a new type of locomotive represented by engines which are making trial trips to various points from Breslau. They are provided with the three-cylinder system and are mounted on 18 wheels, 6 of which are drivers. The tenders have a carrying capacity of 7 tons of coal and 8,189 gallons of water. The engines weigh 308,647 pounds and have a driving power, according to Dynamischen measurement, of 22,046 pounds. They have the most modern improvements, are 65.6 feet long, and have a speed of 68 miles an hour.

These locomotives, it is stated, are to be used for heavy passenger service on the Breslau-Dresden and Breslau-Berlin runs, distances of 168 and 207 miles, respectively.

TINSEL AND METAL FABRIC INDUSTRY OF FRANCE.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, Sept. 9.]

The history of the manufacture of tinsel and metal braids and fabrics in France goes back, according to the records, to the eleventh century; but it has only been within the past half century that a real commercial development of the art has been noted. To-day France leads the world in the manufacture of tinsel fabrics, and the city of Lyon is easily the first in this industry.

In 1583 thirty establishments were producing metal braids and fabrics in the city of Lyon. Three-quarters of a century later the number had increased to 80, while to-day thousands of workers in Lyon and its environs are engaged in the manufacture of metal threads and fabrics.

The regular trade for tinsel goods was formerly limited to the uniforms of officers of the army and navy and of the diplomatic corps, and to church vestments, church banners, and ornaments for the decoration of Christmas trees. To-day, however, a large quantity in various forms is also employed in the manufacture of women's dress goods, which, in large measure, is responsible for the large increase in the production of tinsel goods.

The Trade in the Lyonnaise Region.

Lyon has always been recognized as the principal market for tinsel goods in France. Before the war its greatest competitor was Germany, but the supply from that country having been cut off Lyon has been called upon to supply the world with its tinsel products. It has been impossible to supply the demand, and as a natural consequence prices for all articles in this category have more than doubled, and some have even tripled and quadrupled in price. Just at this time, when fashion has decreed that the style shall be for metal trimmings and cloths of metal, the demand is out of all proportion to other times, even the days before the war.

In Lyon and its environs a number of important factories are engaged in the production of metal thread, trimmings, and braid. The merchants of Lyon furnish these factories with certain materials in an advanced state of completion, and the factories turn out the finished product.

Up to 15 or 20 years ago a large proportion of the goods manufactured in this trade was completed in the city of Lyon. In these days, however, the work is largely done in the country districts through organizations that control a large supply of expert but comparatively cheap labor.

Those engaged in the manufacture of tinsel goods in the country districts do their work at their homes, either by hand or upon primitive machines that have been handed down from previous generations. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the workers are women, and as the work is not arduous many are attracted to it. The articles manufactured by the women include fringes bullions, laces, embroideries, and church ornaments, as well as tassels, fancy trimmings, military regalia trimmings, theatrical goods, church vestments, and articles for upholstery and the box-making trade. It is estimated that between 50,000 and 75,000 are employed in the tinsel trade.

The wage scale in the tinsel trade changes many times during a year, according to the demand, and specialists employed in the manufacture of certain articles receive additional compensation when those articles are in vogue, but the demand for tinsel goods fluctuates with the prevailing styles. Women in the small family workshops average \$0.40 to \$1 per day.

These people bear a high reputation in the commercial world for honesty and faithfulness, and they often hold \$1,000 worth of raw material belonging to large establishments in Lyon.

At times advances are made for the purchase of certain material, but the looms and other machinery are usually the property of the person executing the work. Societies operating on a cooperative basis help the poorer workingmen to purchase raw material at advantageous prices, giving him long terms for payment and exacting no interest.

Machinery Used—Metal Thread Industry.

One of the most interesting features of the tinsel trade in Lyon is the great variety of machinery employed, from the looms adapted for the manufacture of veiling and gold lace, costing from \$2,000 to \$20,000, to the crude machines used in the manufacture of ribbons for galloons that have been in use since the days of Louis XIV. Jacquard machines operated by electricity are used in the more advanced factories, but the desire for new methods in labor-saving machinery is not pronounced. The Lyonnaise workman preserves the old methods of doing business that have been handed down to him through the ages.

Metal thread is almost entirely made by machinery. In the factories or workshops where the thread is manufactured a large majority of the employees are women who receive, according to the seasons, from \$0.50 to \$1 per day. The manufacture of metal thread is in itself a simple operation. The thread is composed of two materials, cotton and wire, although that used for military ornaments is composed of silk and metal. Some of the larger factories manipulate as high as 3,000 threads all at the same time. The cotton employed as a base for the thread is first spun into a thin thread and wound mechanically upon spools.

The wire which is employed as a covering for this thread is flattened under a metal roller and reeled on small bobbins. The flattening of the wire is a delicate process and requires a certain amount of dexterity in order that the flattening be equal.

Exports to the United States of Metal Goods.

The following table shows the value of the exports of metal goods to the United States from Lyon for the last five years:

Metal goods.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Church:					
Ornaments.....	82, 152	94, 777	} 147, 323	{ 68, 063	48, 348
Vestments.....	36, 097	36, 398			
Metal:					
Thread.....	51, 279	53, 136	} 218, 104	{ 33, 026	104, 597
Trimmings.....	254, 455	247, 901			
Total	423, 983	432, 212	365, 427	352, 728	534, 268

REPORT OF PORTUGUESE DOCK BOARD.

[Consul General Will L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Oct. 17.]

The Oporto Docks Autonomous Board has issued its report for the year 1915 in the form of an 85-page illustrated monograph. In forwarding a copy of this book to the Lisbon consulate general, Consular Agent Spratley, of Oporto, states:

This board has full charge of the harbors at Oporto and Leixões and is authorized to make the latter a first-class modern port. Many houses in the harbor area have already been pulled down, but tenders for the work of excavating the docks and building the general working plant have been postponed on account of the war.

Attention is called to the diagrams, at pages 14 and 16, to the several reproductions of dredgers, rock cutters, etc., and to the view of the American tank steamer on page 61. The last plan of the coast near Oporto, showing relative positions of the river and the artificial harbor of Leixões, is also interesting.

Work will be resumed as soon as conditions are more favorable, and American concerns should not lose track of the trade opportunities that will be presented at that time. An outline of the work embraced in this harbor-improvement scheme was published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for May 14, 1913.

[The dock board's report, in Portuguese, will be loaned upon request by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington. Refer to file No. 81845.]

CARBIDE TRADE IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 4.]

A shortage of carbide in New Zealand is reported. One of the large importers reported to the American consulate that he could get only 25 tons on an order of 140 tons, and that he failed to obtain any promise of a future supply. As a result of the demand here, various interests are planning to put in a plant for the manufacture of carbide. The raw material is conveniently located near Auckland, with good coal and the very best of lime rock available. It is stated that there is plenty of capital in New Zealand ready for investment in this enterprise as soon as the proper man can be obtained to manage it.

Australasia consumes about 15,000 tons of carbide per annum, of which New Zealand takes about 2,500 tons, with an average increase of 300 tons per annum. Carbide now sells in New Zealand at \$130 to \$140 a ton. The New Zealand Railway alone consumes about 140 tons a year, with an average increased consumption of about 20 tons a year.

The only duty charged on carbide is the 1 per cent war duty which applies to imports from all countries.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Chum, Harold D.....	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Gulana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany...	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Tendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay...	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

PROJECTED VOLGA-DON CANAL.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 19.]

The British acting vice consul at Rostof-on-Don reports that, according to the local press of September 13, the project for the construction and equipment of a Volga-Don canal, as designed by the Russian minister of ways of communications, has been approved by the Government. A party of engineers has been appointed to carry out detailed technical surveys and to consider other questions connected with the execution of this large enterprise.

The projected canal will play an important part in the economic development of southeastern Russia and of the Volga and Don Basins. Grain from Tsaritsin and timber and ore from the Urals will thereby obtain a direct outlet to the ports of the Sea of Azof and thence to the Black Sea. Moreover, the canal will make it possible to supply coal to all the chief cities and industrial centers of the Volga and surrounding country from the rich coal district of the Donetz Basin. It is thought that there will be a prosperous future for Rostof, which will be the outlet for the products using the new route.

Persian Officers Want Books on Veterinary Science.

Veterinary officers of the Persian Army have informed Chargé d'Affaires Jefferson Caffery that they desire to obtain from the United States books relating to all branches of veterinary science. Publishers of works of this kind will be put in touch with the inquirers upon communicating with the American legation in Teheran.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquiries; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Aluminum ware.....	23034	Locks.....	23026
Automobiles and accessories.....	23023, 23027	Machinery.....	23027
Belting.....	23027	Machinery, crayon-making.....	23031
Boots and shoes.....	23023, 23034	Machinery, printing.....	23029
Canned goods and groceries.....	23023	Magnesia salts.....	23024
Celluloid.....	23033	Minerals oils.....	23027
Cement.....	23023	Morphine.....	23024
Chemical products.....	23027	Motion-picture apparatus, etc.....	23027
Cloth and clothing.....	23023	Motor boats.....	23027
Codein.....	23024	Novelties.....	23023, 23025
Crockery and glassware.....	23034	Optical goods.....	23027
Cutlery.....	23034	Paper.....	23023, 23029
Electric motors.....	23027	Perfumery and soap.....	23023, 23034
Fire apparatus.....	23028	Rice.....	23023
Formaldehyde.....	23024	Shoe polish.....	23034
Galvanized iron.....	23023	Sugar.....	23023
Gasoline.....	23023	Textiles.....	23023
Haberdashery.....	23030, 23034	Trunks and traveling bags.....	23030
Hardware.....	23025, 23034	Type and supplies.....	23029
Hosiery.....	23025, 23030	Underwear.....	23034
Inks.....	23029	Watches and clocks.....	23034
Lactic acid.....	23024	Wire, fencing.....	23023
Lanterns.....	23034	Wood, manufactures of.....	23025

23023.*—A firm in Chile desires to secure agencies for American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles, gasoline, cement, groceries and canned goods, sugar, rice, paper, perfumery, clothing, cotton and woolen cloth, shoes, novelties, galvanized iron, both smooth and corrugated, for buildings, wire for fences, etc. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23024.*—A business man in France desires to represent American manufacturers of lactic acid, morphine, codein, formaldehyde, and magnesia salts.

23025.*—A firm in South Africa desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of small hardware, hosiery, manufactures of wood, novelties, and other goods suitable for that market.

23026.*—A firm in Central America is in the market for padlocks and locks for boxes and chests, drawers, and wardrobes, etc. Correspondence in English. References.

23027.*—A commission merchant in Spain desires to establish relations with American manufacturers of all kinds of machinery, leather belting, automobiles and accessories, electric motors, motor boats, optical goods, cinematographic apparatus, films, mineral oils, and chemical products. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23028.*—A municipality in Canada is contemplating the purchase of a motor-driven fire truck and a horse-drawn ladder truck.

23029.*—A manufacturers' representative in Brazil, who is now in the United States, wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers who wish to extend their trade in printing machinery, paper, inks, types, and supplies. References.

23030.*—A firm in the West Indies desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of hosiery, collars, ties, handkerchiefs, trunks and traveling bags. Correspondence in English. References.

23031.*—Quotations are desired in a foreign colonial possession in the Far East from American manufacturers of machinery for making chalk crayons.

23032.†—The representative of a firm in Denmark, who is now in the United States, wishes to get in touch with American export houses of textile goods.

23033.*—A firm in the United Kingdom is in the market for transparent and white sheet celluloid of various thicknesses, and white celluloid rod of three-eighths inch to one-half inch in diameter. Reference.

23034.*—A wholesale firm in East Africa wishes to receive catalogues and prices on medium and cheaper grades of boots and shoes and shoe polish, cutlery, aluminum ware, crockery and glassware, haberdashery, lanterns, small hardware, soaps and perfumes, tropical underwear, and watches and clocks.

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PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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RECORD SHIPMENT OF CACAO FROM ECUADOR.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Oct. 27.]

During the past year a great many large shipments of cacao have been made from Guayaquil, but the greatest was that made on the American steamship *Clare*, which left here October 22, bound for New York. This steamer was specially chartered by the Asociación de Agricultores de Ecuador to make this shipment. It brought a large general cargo consisting mostly of kerosene, automobiles, cement, and coal.

Upon its return trip it took 41,000 bags of cacao, worth 2,378,000 sucres, which at the present rate of exchange amounts to a little over \$1,000,000. Prior to this one, the largest single shipment made on one steamer to a consignee in a foreign country amounted to 25,000 bags.

With this shipment, the exports from Guayaquil to the United States during the calendar year 1916 have exceeded the total exports for the whole of 1915 by over \$1,000,000.

GOVERNMENT AID TO SPANISH DAILY PRESS.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 21.]

A royal decree signed on September 26 authorizes a special appropriation of 1,000,000 pesetas (\$180,000) to help the daily papers in the present paper crisis. The Spanish Government will guarantee to the associated paper mills of Spain the difference between the price of paper for daily periodicals as sold in July, 1914, and the price now prevailing.

The sum devoted to this purpose may only be increased with the consent of the council of ministers, and is granted in the form of a loan to be disbursed and repaid according to arrangements with the Treasury, two representatives of the daily press, and the director general of the so-called Spanish Paper Trust.

La Compañía Fabril y Manufacturera of Costa Rica will establish a factory for the manufacture of hosiery, according to a recent issue of Centro America.

PROGRESS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

Steel merchant vessels building or under contract to be built in private American shipyards on November 1, 1916, according to builders' returns to the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, number 417, of 1,479,946 gross tons, an increase of 25,676 tons over the returns for October 1. During October American yards finished 17 steel merchant vessels of 52,491 gross tons and made new contracts for 17 steel merchant vessels of 77,877 gross tons.

Distribution of Work.

The following table shows the distribution of this work among the several builders of steel vessels in the United States reporting merchant vessels under contract or under construction and, separately, the number and gross tonnage of the ships building or under contract which the builders expect to launch during the current fiscal year (314 vessels of 960,899 gross tons), and those which will not be launched until some time in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918 (103 vessels of 519,047 gross tons). These dates of launching, of course, are subject to the usual allowances for delays.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Nov. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.
American Bridge Co., Ambridge, Pa., and Trenton, N. J.	101	51,260	101	51,250	.....	.....
American Shipbuilding Co., Cleveland, Ohio	24	85,800	24	85,800	.....	.....
Anderson Steamboat Co., Seattle, Wash.	2	11,400	.....	.....	2	11,400
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	10	37,600	6	21,000	4	14,000
Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me.	3	1,600	3	1,600	.....	.....
Bethlehem Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.	14	91,997	5	36,480	9	55,847
Charles Barnes Co., Cincinnati, Ohio	2	375	2	375	.....	.....
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	14	67,700	12	53,700	2	9,000
Cowles Shipyard Co., Buffalo, N. Y.	1	36	1	36	.....	.....
Dubuque Boat & Boiler Works, Dubuque, Iowa	1	65	1	65	.....	.....
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Mass.	13	87,800	11	74,444	2	13,356
George Lawley & Sons Corporation, Nepon- set, Mass.	1	75	1	75	.....	.....
Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit, Mich.	15	59,350	6	26,040	9	33,310
Great Lakes Towing Co., Cleveland, Ohio	4	376	4	376	.....	.....
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation, Wil- mington, Del.	14	58,354	10	40,679	4	17,675
Howard Shipyards Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.	5	2,950	5	2,950	.....	.....
J. F. Duthie & Co., Seattle, Wash.	7	38,310	1	5,370	6	32,940
James Rea & Sons Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.	1	300	1	300	.....	.....
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wis.	11	17,453	7	10,400	4	7,053
Merrill-Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla.	4	2,500	4	2,500	.....	.....
Moore & Scott Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.	7	35,000	3	15,000	4	20,000
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.	14	97,573	8	52,325	6	45,248
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.	26	133,804	18	79,835	8	53,969
Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Co., Gloucester, N. J.	10	65,000	4	27,500	6	37,500
Pusey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.	12	11,850	6	2,250	6	9,600
Riter-Conley Manufacturing Co., Balti- more, Md.	2	3,000	.....	.....	2	3,000
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.	11	61,400	7	42,600	4	18,800
Skinner & Eddy Corporation, Seattle, Wash.	11	64,370	6	35,720	5	28,650
Spedden Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	3	730	3	730	.....	.....

* Incomplete.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Nov. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.	Number.	Gross tons.
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation, New York, N. Y.	8	38,400	8	38,400	.....	.....
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Richmond, N. Y.	5	8,841	3	4,641	2	4,200
Sun Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	2	14,200	.....	.....	2	14,200
Tampa Foundry & Machine Co., Tampa, Fla.	1	2,000	1	2,000	.....	.....
Tank Ship Building Corporation, Newburgh, N. Y.	2	1,000	2	1,000	.....	.....
Texas Steamship Co., Bath, Me.	4	26,000	2	12,600	2	13,400
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio	7	18,760	4	13,360	3	8,400
Union Iron Works, San Francisco, Cal.	28	175,028	21	130,228	7	44,800
Willamette Iron & Steel Works and Northwest Steel Co., Portland, Oreg.	8	45,600	4	22,800	4	22,800
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	9	61,500	9	61,500	.....	.....
Total.....	417	1,479,946	314	960,899	103	519,047

• Incomplete.

Details of New Contracts.

The following table shows the details of new contracts for building steel ships entered into during October, 1916, so far as reported by shipbuilders:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Anderson Steamboat Co.:					
—	5,700	10½	Hannevig Bros	Cargo	.....
—	5,700	10½	do	do	.....
Bethlehem Steel Co.:					
No. 168	5,440	.....	For builder's account.	do	Nov., 1917.
No. 169	5,440	.....	do	do	Dec., 1917.
No. 170	5,440	.....	do	do	Feb., 1918.
No. 172	8,400	.....	W. C. Teagle	Bulk oil	May, 1918.
Dubuque Boat & Boiler Works:					
No. 38	65	.....	Union Sand & Material Co.	Towing	Mar. 25, 1917.
J. F. Duthie & Co.:					
No. 13	5,730	11	For Norwegian account.	Cargo	Nov., 1917.
No. 14	5,730	11	do	.....	Oct., 1917.
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co.:					
No. 89	302	11	F. M. Dyer	Trawler	July 1, 1917.
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co.:					
No. 96	4700	10½	For American account.	.....	Late 1917.
Skinner & Eddy Corporation:					
Elizabeth Gibbs	5,730	11½	Not given.	Cargo	Spring, 1918.
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation:					
No. 7	4,800	10½	For foreign account.	do	May 1917.
No. 8	4,800	10½	do	do	Do.
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co.:					
No. 692	2,100	.....	For builder's account.	do	.....
No. 693	2,100	.....	do	do	.....
Willamette Iron & Steel Works & Northwest Steel Co.:					
—	5,700	10½	For Norwegian account.	do	.....
Total (17 vessels) ...	77,877				

Completed ships.

The following table shows the details of steel ships completed during the month of October, 1916, by the respective builders named. When no rig is shown it will be understood that the vessel is a steamer:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Type.	Trade.
American Shipbuilding Co.: Cleveland yard— S. O. Co. No. 82 (*bge.).	2,320	.....	Standard Oil Co.....	Bulk oil ..	Coasting.
Detroit yard— Levisa	2,118	9½	Levisa S. S. Co.....	Cargo	Foreign.
Lorain yard— Herbert F. Black....	6,262	9½	Donner S. S. Co.....	do.....	Coasting.
Superior yard— Sir Trevor Dawson..	7,215	10	American Interlake Co.....	do.....	Do.
Bethlehem Steel Co.: Munrio.....	3,868	10	Munson S. S. Co.....	do.....	Foreign.
Helen	3,216	10	Bull-Insular S. S. Co.....	do.....	Do.
Cowles Shipyard Co.: Interlake	8	8	Benjamin L. Cowles.....	do.....	Coasting.
Great Lakes Engineering Works: Sekstant	2,489	10	Sekstant Joint Stock Co. (Nor.)	do.....	Foreign.
P. L. M. No. 4.....	2,639	10	Alberto A. Dodero (Uru- guay).....	do.....	Do.
P. L. M. No. 5.....	2,639	10	do.....	do.....	Do.
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation: Pearl Shell	5,614	11	Shell Co. of Cal.....	Bulk oil ..	Foreign.
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co.: Comber	302	10	Bay State Fishing Co.....	Trawler....	Coasting.
Puoy & Jones Co.: New York Central No. 3..	210	.....	W. & A. Fletcher Co.....	Towing....	Do.
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co.: New York Central No. 14.	556	.....	N. Y. C. & H. R. R. R. Co...	House barge.	Do.
Toledo Shipbuilding Co.: Dawnlite (Ga. s.).....	1,976	7	Standard Oil Co.....	Cargo	Foreign.
Union Iron Works Co.: Astral.....	8,669	11	Standard Transportation Co. of Del.	Bulk oil ..	Do.
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co.: Joseph R. Parrott.....	2,406	12	Fla. E. C. Ry. Co.....	Car ferry..	Coasting.
Total (17 vessels).....	52,491				

PERMANENT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT IN SANTIAGO DE CHILE.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Oct. 4.]

The Chilean Association of Manufacturers in the July number of the Boletín de la Sociedad de Fomento Fabril calls attention to the permanent exhibit of domestic manufactures in the offices of the association in Santiago. This exhibit is entirely distinct from the special industrial exposition held this year [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 12, 1916], and its purpose is to keep before Chilean merchants and consumers the products of home industries, as well as to inform foreign visitors of the industrial development of the country. The association intends to enlarge its exhibit by adding a collection of native raw materials, to encourage the use of these materials in home industries and to lead to their utilization in new lines of manufacture. Among the domestic products in the permanent exhibit of the association are textile manufactures, papers, cordage, brooms, leather and belting, bronze beds, bottles, buttons, matches, soap, metal ornaments, wicker furniture, and electric batteries.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Clum, Harold D.	Calgary, Alberta, Canada.	Nov. 18	Saugerties, Ulster County, N. Y.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Dow, Edward A.	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Tendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.	Calcutta, India.	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay.	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.	Quebec, Quebec. ....	...do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece.	Dec. 30	Do.

LABORATORY WORK OF FISHERIES BUREAU.

At the Beaufort, N. C., laboratory of the United States Bureau of Fisheries during the past month excellent progress has been made in the propagation of diamond-back terrapin. Up to October 23, the number of young taken from the laying beds was 2,624, an increase of nearly 500 over the total hatch of 1915. In addition 462 unhatched eggs were found, making the total number of eggs laid 3,086.

At the Fairport, Iowa, laboratory experiments in smoking fish, preparation of mussel meats, production of artificial pearls, and other problems of economic importance have been continued.

During September more than 47,000,000 larvæ of fresh-water mussels were planted by Fairport and subsidiary stations, and more than 400,000 fishes were rescued.

RUSSIAN PLATINUM PRODUCTION.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 26.]

The British consul at Ekaterinburg, Russia, reports that during the current year the production of platinum in the Urals has been seriously affected by the scarcity of labor in the case of hand washings by tributaries, and in the case of mechanical dredging plants by the difficulty in obtaining spare parts for dredges. The production of platinum in 1916 is estimated at 100 to 120 poods (3,600 to 4,300 pounds), or one-third of the normal production. To this decrease in output, as well as to speculation by local buyers, may be attributed the rise in the price of platinum.

RUSSIAN SECURITIES.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, New York, Nov. 15.]

The era of prosperity through which the United States is passing, due primarily to the big increase in exports, has awakened a widespread interest in the field of investments. The country has taken back from across the seas so many of its own securities that it can no longer be spoken of as a debtor nation. In addition to reinvestments in its own securities it has made loans of considerable size to France, Germany, Great Britain, Argentina, Russia, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Uruguay, Italy, Canada, Newfoundland, etc. Never in the history of this country has such a variety of foreign securities been obtainable in its markets; yet the supply is hardly equal to the demand. Short maturities, high yields, and the prevailing low rates of foreign exchange are among the features that make this class of securities attractive.

Russian Government and municipal bonds and guaranteed railway securities have been sold for many years in the markets of Europe, particularly in Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, and France, but few have been purchased in this country. The Russian ruble has a normal parity of \$0.5146. To-day, owing largely to the country's inability to export its goods, the ruble has declined in exchange value to \$0.298.

Noteworthy Features of Russian Securities.

An examination of the list and description of Russian securities contained in this report reveals the following facts:

- (1) Principal and interest are usually payable at fixed rates of exchange, which are considerably higher than present rates.
- (2) Principal and interest are usually payable in various currencies, including pounds sterling, florins, marks, francs, and in several instances United States gold.
- (3) The bonds, which are now selling at considerable discounts, are usually amortized, by means of annual drawings, at par.
- (4) The income return and the yield to maturity are comparatively high.
- (5) Present prices are unusually low.
- (6) Most of the securities may be obtained in small denominations.

Principal Russian Securities Listed in London and Paris.

The following table shows the principal Russian Government loans, bonds secured on the Government railway lines, and railway bonds bearing Government guaranties that are listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Paris Bourse, and the municipal bonds of Russia that are listed on the London Stock Exchange, their par value, the highest price at which each has sold since 1911, and the present price. It should be borne in mind that the value of the gold ruble that circulated before 1899 was \$0.77; after the coinage law of 1899 went into effect it was decreed that "for Government loans and securities which have been issued in metallic or gold rubles the capital and interest shall be calculated at the rate of 1 ruble and 50 kopecks for every metallic or gold ruble."

Securities.	Par.	Highest price since 1911.	Present price.
LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.			
Russian Government loans:		<i>Per cent. a</i>	<i>Per cent. a</i>
(1) 5 per cent loan of 1822.....	£111.....	125	94
(2) 3 per cent loan of 1850.....	£100.....	82	60
(3) 4 per cent loan of 1894.....	100, 200, 500, and 1,000 rubles.	96	65
(4) 3½ per cent bonds.....	125 gold rubles.....	91	64
(5) 5 per cent loan of 1903.....	£19 17s. and multiples.....	106½	90
(6) 4½ per cent loan of 1909.....	do.....	102½	81
Bonds secured on Government railway lines:			
(7) Nicolas Railway 4 per cent bonds of 1897-1899	125 gold rubles, £20, or 500 francs.	96	74
(8) Transcaucasian Railway 3 per cent bonds of 1882.....	125 gold rubles, £20, 500 francs, 236 florins.	83	60
(9) Consolidated 4 per cent railroad bonds, series 1 and 2.....	125 gold rubles, £19 15s. 6d., 500 francs, 239 florins.	67½	71
(10) Consolidated 4 per cent railroad bonds, series 3.....	do.....	97	71
(11) Dvinsk-Vitebsk Railway 4 per cent bonds.....	125 gold rubles, £20, 500 francs, 240 florins.	95	72
Railway bonds bearing Government guaranty (principal and interest):			
(12) Armavir-Tuapse Railway 4½ per cent bonds of 1909.....	£20 (180 rubles) and multiples.	106½	82
(13) Black Sea-Kuban Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	do.....	100	81
(14) Grand Russian Railway 4 per cent (Nicolas Railway) bonds.....	£100, 625 gold rubles, 1,200 florins.	93	68
(15) Kahtian Railway 4½ per cent bonds of 1912.....	£20 (180 rubles) and multiples.	98½	80
(16) Kokand-Namangan Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	do.....	95½	81
(17) Moscow-Windau-Rybinsk Railway 4 per cent bonds.....	£20, £100, £500, £1,000.....	95	72
(18) Russian Southeastern Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	£20 (180 rubles), £100, and £500.	93	83
(19) Troitsk Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	£20 (180 rubles) and multiples.	100½	82
(20) Wolmar Railway 4½ per cent bonds (guaranteed principal and interest by Government of Livonia).	do.....	98	78
Municipal bonds:			
(21) City of Baku 5 per cent bonds.....	£20, £100, £500.....	105	81
(22) City of Helsingfors 4½ per cent bonds of 1909.....	£100 and £20.....	101	78
(23) City of Helsingfors 4½ per cent bonds of 1911.....	do.....	100	78
(24) City of Kiev 5 per cent bonds of 1914.....	£20, £100, and £500.....	99½	82
(25) City of Moscow 5 per cent bonds of 1908.....	£20 (180 rubles).....	106½	88
(26) City of Moscow 4½ per cent bonds of 1912.....	£20, £100, £500, and £1,000.	96½	79
(27) City of Nikolaief 5 per cent bonds.....	£20, £100, £200.....	97	81
(28) City of Petrograd 4½ per cent bonds of 1913.....	do.....	96	79
(29) City of Riga 4½ per cent bonds of 1913.....	£20, £100, £500, £1,000.....	93½	73
(30) City of Saratof 5 per cent bonds of 1909.....	£99 2s. 4d. (£97.50 rubles).....	101½	80
(31) City of Tammerfors 4½ per cent bonds of 1910.....	£20, £100.....	99½	77
(32) City of Vilna 5 per cent bonds.....	£20 (180 rubles), £100, and multiples.	99	65
Loan of Grand Duchy of Finland:			
(33) 4½ per cent Government railway loan.....	do.....	103	83
PARIS BOURSE.			
Russian Government loans:			<i>Francs.</i>
(34) 4 per cent loan of 1880.....	100 francs.....		71.75
(35) 4 per cent loan of 1890.....	do.....		72.75
(36) 4 per cent loan of 1893.....	do.....		73.50
(37) 4 per cent loan of 1894.....	do.....		73.00
(38) 4 per cent loan of 1901.....	do.....		68.00
(39) 3 per cent loan of 1901-4.....	do.....		62.35
(40) 3½ per cent loan of 1909.....	do.....		80.50
(41) 3.80 per cent Credit Foncier mutual loan.....	400 francs.....		294.00
(42) 3 per cent loan of 1896.....	100 francs.....		59.00
Bonds secured on Government railway lines or issued for conversion of railway loans:			
(43) Dvinsk-Vitebsk Railway 4 per cent bonds.....	do.....		68.60
(44) Donets 4 per cent bonds of 1893.....	do.....		68.50
(45) Kursk-Kharkof-Azof Railway 4 per cent bonds of 1894.....	do.....		69.50

^a Quotations on bonds listed on the London Stock Exchange are usually computed on a percentage of par basis.

^b These bonds are payable in rubles only and sell in Russia, since the outbreak of the war, at a price considerably below the bonds held outside of the Empire, owing to the fact that interest on the latter issues is still payable at the original fixed rates of exchange. Presumably like conditions govern the purchase of other external-loan bonds.

Securities.	Par.	Highest price since 1911.	Present price.
PARIS BOURSE—continued.			
Railway bonds bearing Government guaranty (principal and interest):		<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>
(46) Moscow-Kief Railway 4 per cent bonds.....	500 francs		363.00
(47) Ryazan-Ural Railway 4 per cent bonds.....	do		365.00
(48) Northeast Ural Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	do		398.00
(49) West Ural Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	do		394.00
(50) Volga-Boulouma Railway 4½ per cent bonds.....	do		420.00
(51) Volga-Boulouma Railway 4 per cent bonds.....	do		368.00
(52) Moscow-Windau-Rybinsk Railway 4 per cent bonds.....	do		362.00

Details of Russian Bond Issues—Government Loans.

Descriptions of the listed securities follow:

(1) Five per cent loan of 1822. Issued, £6,001,030; about £3,650,000 outstanding. Interest payable March and September. Bonds of sterling denominations have a par value of £111. The bonds sold during 1914 at 122½. The issue has no maturity date and the bonds may be retired only by purchase in the open market.

(2) Three per cent loan of 1859. Originally issued, £7,000,000; about £1,600,000 outstanding. A compulsory sinking fund of 1½ per cent accumulative will purchase bonds in the open market. The bonds are thus readily salable. Interest payable May and November.

(3) Four per cent conversion loan (rentes) of 1894. Issued, 2,830,000,000 rubles (100 rubles=£10 11s. 5d.=266.67 francs=216 Reichsmarks=128 Dutch florins=\$51.45 United States gold). The coupons are subject to a Russian tax of 5 per cent. Interest quarterly, beginning January, payable in rubles only. Bonds are redeemable at the Government's option at par, or may be purchased in the open market. Listed in London, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, Petrograd, Brussels, and New York.

(4) Three and one-half per cent bonds (issued 1894). Originally issued, £15,820,000 (100,000,000 rubles); about £14,800,000 outstanding. Redeemable at par prior to 1976 through sinking fund that retires bonds semiannually. Interest quarterly, beginning January, payable in London, Paris, Berlin, Frankfort, Hamburg, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Petrograd, and New York. Rate of exchange, 125 gold rubles=£19 15s. 6d.=96.25 United States gold. These bonds were issued to pay off railway bonds.

(5) Five per cent loan of 1906. Issued, £89,325,000 (843,750,000 rubles), of which £13,101,000 are listed in London (originally issued at 89 per cent). Bonds redeemable at par prior to 1957 by annual sinking-fund drawings, commencing in 1917. Interest payable May and November. Bonds are also listed in Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, and Glasgow, and on the Continental markets. Interest payable in sterling, francs, Reichsmarks, florins, rubles, crowns, etc.

(6) Four and one-half per cent loan of 1909. Issued, £55,580,000 (525,000,000 rubles), of which £5,925,000 were sold in London at 88½ per cent. Par, £19 17s. (187.50 rubles; 500 francs) and multiples. Bonds are redeemable 1919 to 1959 at par. Interest payable January and July.

Government Railway Bonds Listed in London.

(7) Nicolas Railway 4 per cent bonds of 1867-1869. Originally issued, £23,100,000; about £18,000,000 outstanding. Annual sinking fund (accumulative) will retire issue at par prior to 1953. Bonds are secured on the properties of the Nicolas Railway and are guaranteed, principal and interest, by the Russian Government. The issue is considered a direct obligation of the nation. Interest payable April and October in Paris, London, and Amsterdam.

(8) Transcaucasian Railway 3 per cent bonds of 1882. Originally issued, 55,651,250 rubles (£8,904,200); about £6,700,000 outstanding. Redeemable at par prior to 1954 by semiannual drawings. Issue declared part of the public debt. Interest payable June and December. Principal and interest payable in London, Paris, Amsterdam, and Berlin (before the war), the following parities being fixed: £20=500 francs=236 Dutch florins=125 gold rubles. Earnings of Transcaucasian Railway for 1908 (latest obtainable), about £2,860,000 gross and £396,000 net; interest and sinking funds, £1,144,000; deficit, £752,000; mileage operated, 1,133.

(9) Consolidated 4 per cent railroad loans (series 1 and 2). Originally issued, £27,685,000 and £49,120,784; about £25,500,000 and £45,000,000 outstanding. Issues to retire earlier railway loans. Redeemable at par prior to 1972 by means of annual sinking fund. Interest payable quarterly, beginning January. Bonds listed in London, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Glasgow, and (series 2) on Continental markets.

(10) Consolidated 4 per cent railroad loans (series 3). Bonds outstanding, about £11,500,000. Practically the same features govern series 3 as series 1 and 2.

(11) Dvinsk-Vitebsk Railway 4 per cent bonds. Originally issued, £3,026,240; about £2,500,000 outstanding. Repayable at par prior to 1952 by semiannual drawings. Bonds issued by the Government to acquire this property.

Railway Bonds Guaranteed by Government.

(12) Armavir-Tuapse Railway 4½ per cent bonds of 1909, guaranteed, principal and interest, by the Russian Government. Issued, £5,767,180; £5,747,000 outstanding. Bonds were issued to construct and equip the above-named railway, extending inland from the port of Tuapse, on the Black Sea. Issue redeemable at par by 1993. Interest payable June and December.

(13) Black Sea-Kuban Railway 4½ per cent bonds, guaranteed, principal and interest, by the Russian Government. Originally issued, £1,913,760; all outstanding. A direct obligation of the railway. Tax-free. Interest payable May and November. Bonds payable prior to 1998 by means of annual sinking fund. This is a new railway, construction work having been recently completed.

(14) Grand Russian Railway (Nicolas Railway) bonds, 4 per cent loan of 1888. Originally issued, £1,888,000 (11,800,000 rubles); £1,544,300 outstanding. Coupons subject to a Russian 5 per cent tax. Interest payable February and August. Redeemable at par prior to 1953. Although considered by the London Stock Exchange authorities as being classed with the various bonds described in this section, these bonds should properly be considered a Government railway

obligation, since they have been declared part of the Empire's national debt.

(15) Kahetian Railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds of 1912. Originally issued, £1,400,000; £1,398,160 outstanding. Sinking fund retires entire issue at par in 81 annual drawings. Railway, 115 miles in length, was opened during the present year. Free from Russian taxes.

(16) Kokand-Namangan Railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds. Authorized, £420,100; £400,440 outstanding. Free from Russian taxes. Interest payable April and October. Bonds unconditionally guaranteed, principal and interest, by the Russian Government. Redeemable at par by 1994 by annual sinking-fund drawings.

(17) Moscow-Windau-Rybinsk Railway 4 per cent bonds. Originally issued, £2,975,000; £2,606,000 outstanding; guaranteed unconditionally, principal and interest, by the Russian Government. Sinking fund of approximately one-half of 1 per cent will retire whole issue prior to 1956. Exempt from all present and future Russian taxes. This railway is of considerable importance, being about 1,367 miles in length. In addition to the bonds, the company has outstanding 13,509,300 rubles of capital stock, which is held in Russia. Bonds are listed in Continental cities.

(18) Russian Southeastern Railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds. Issued, £3,096,300; £3,064,300 outstanding. A direct obligation of the company guaranteed by the Government. Redeemable at par prior to 1954 by means of annual sinking fund. Interest payable April and October.

(19) Troitsk Railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds, guaranteed, principal and interest, by the Russian Government. Originally issued, £3,695,960; £3,684,820 outstanding. A direct obligation of the Troitsk Railway. Redeemable at par prior to 1995 by sinking fund. Free from Russian taxes. Interest April and October, payable at Lloyd's Bank.

(20) Wolmar Railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds, interest and sinking fund guaranteed for 20 years from 1913 by Government of Province of Livonia. Redeemable at par by 1993 through sinking fund. Interest payable June and December. Railway is 72 miles in length and extends from Smiltēn and Wolmar to the port of Haynasch on the Black Sea. Russian Government may purchase line after 1933, but to do so must redeem loan at par. Originally issued, £179,880; £179,040 outstanding. Share capital, 560,000 rubles, issued at par; proceeds used toward cost of construction.

Municipal Bonds Listed in London.

(21) City of Baku 5 per cent bonds, issued in 1910, 1911, and 1913. Originally issued, £2,303,300; £2,252,340 outstanding. Interest payable January and July in pounds sterling at London or in Russian rubles at Baku. Redeemed at par by annual drawings, 1911 to 1960. The population of Baku is estimated at 350,000, and the assessed value of property about 96,000,000 rubles. Interest payments in London were slightly delayed during the early stages of the war, owing largely to lack of transportation facilities.

(22 and 23) City of Helsingfors $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds of 1909 and of 1911. Originally issued, £640,000 and £1,000,000; £614,000 and £969,660 outstanding. Sinking fund will retire the two issues by means of annual drawings prior to 1962. Interest payable, loan of

1909, May and November; and loan of 1911, June and December. Bonds to bearer, £100 and £20; or in Finnish marks, at 15.15 per pound; Swedish crowns, 18.10; German Reichsmarks, 20.40. The two issues were sold at 93½ and 97, respectively, in London, at dates of issue, and were also publicly offered in Helsingfors, Stockholm, Göteborg, Strassburg, and Frankfort-on-Main. Helsingfors, the principal city of Finland, has an estimated population of 165,000. The total city debt is estimated at £2,500,000.

(24) City of Kief 5 per cent bonds of 1914. Issued, about £530,000; about £520,000 outstanding. Issue will be retired by 1965 through a sinking fund that draws bonds annually at par. Denominations of bonds, £20, £100, and £500, and francs (25.20 per pound). Population of city, 750,000; city properties, including tramway, valued at £17,000,000. Liabilities, £4,000,000. Issue secured on city property and revenue.

[City of Kief 5 per cent municipal-tramway bonds of 1914 (issued, £2,116,420; £2,106,140 outstanding) may also be purchased at approximately 81, as compared with the offering price of June, 1914, of 96 per cent. These bonds were issued to purchase the city's tramway system and are free from all municipal and national taxes in Russia. Rates of exchange same as for No. 24. Interest payable April and October. Bond drawings for redemption at par, October, 1915, to 1964.]

(25) City of Moscow 5 per cent bonds of 1908. Originally issued, £5,423,969, of which £1,889,560 were offered in London at 87½ and the balance mostly in Paris; approximately £5,200,000 outstanding. Interest payable in pounds sterling and in rubles. Par, £20 and 189 rubles; Paris bonds have a parity of £19 16s. 10d. Interest payable March and September. Free from Russian taxes. Moscow has a population of approximately 1,700,000. The assets of the municipality, including tramways, etc., are valued at nearly £25,000,000. Total debt of municipality, external and internal, approximately £15,600,000.

(26) City of Moscow 4½ per cent bonds of 1912. Issued, £3,809,520; £1,739,160 outstanding. Principal repayable in 49 annual installments, beginning in 1912, or by purchase in the open market. Interest payable May and November. Par, £20, £100, £500, and £1,000; also issued in rubles, francs, etc.

(27) City of Nikolaief 5 per cent gold bonds of 1912. Issued, £687,820; £678,780 outstanding. Interest payable January and July. Redeemable at par in 48½ annual drawings, commencing in 1913, or by purchase in the open market. Issued in pounds sterling, rubles, and francs, the rates of exchange being 25.20 francs and 9.45 rubles to the pound. Free from Russian taxes and a first charge on the entire property and revenue of the city. Nikolaief is the principal grain port of the Black Sea, its population being in excess of 125,000. Public and private property (real estate) is stated to have a value of more than £17,500,000.

(28) City of Petrograd 4½ per cent bonds of 1913. Issued, £7,037,087; practically the entire issue outstanding. Interest payable April and October in Petrograd, London, Paris, and Berlin. Free from Russian taxes. Issue redeemable in 67 years from 1914 by annual drawings or by purchase in the open market. Exchange rate, same

as city of Nikolaief bonds No. 27. The population of Petrograd is in excess of 2,000,000. The total debt of the city at the outbreak of the war was £12,000,000 (external loans). Revenue of city for year 1914, about £5,500,000. The city owns its tramway system (384,400,000 passengers carried during 1915), telephone system, water system, gas works, etc.

(29) City of Riga $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds of 1913. Issued, £1,322,751; £1,283,040 outstanding. A cumulative sinking fund will retire the issue in 39 years. Interest payable May and November. Free from Russian taxes. Par, £20, £100, £500, and £1,000, or their equivalents in rubles. Riga has a population of more than 500,000 and had a public debt at the outbreak of the war of £2,000,000.

(30) City of Saratof 5 per cent bonds of 1909. Originally issued, £407,826; £390,166 outstanding. Interest payable January and July. Redeemable in 48 years from date of issue by means of annual drawings at par. Bonds to bearer. Denominations £99 4s. 2d. and 937.50 rubles. Free from Russian taxes. The city has a population of about 250,000. Total public indebtedness, about £550,000.

(31) City of Tammerfors $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds of 1910. Originally issued, £119,000; £110,250 outstanding. Interest payable March and September. Bonds to bearer, with parities of £20, £100, and their equivalents in francs, Finnish marks, etc. Bonds may be purchased in the open market or drawn for redemption, the final maturity date being 1950. Population of Tammersfors, about 50,000. Free from Finnish taxes.

(32) City of Vilna 5 per cent gold bonds. Originally issued, £449,600; £446,820 outstanding. Interest payable May and November in London in pounds sterling. A sinking fund will retire the issue in 62 years from 1913. The issue was publicly offered in London in 1912 at 96 per cent, is free from Russian taxes, is secured by all real estate belonging to the city, and is a first charge on its revenues.

Finnish Government Bonds.

(33) Finnish Government $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent railway loan. Originally issued, £1,800,000; £1,739,669 outstanding. Interest payable January and July. Redeemable in 56 years from date of issue by means of a sinking fund that draws bonds at par or purchases same in open market at below that figure. Bonds were offered for public subscription in 1909 in England and Switzerland at $92\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Par, £20, £100, and multiples; 25.15 francs and multiples; florins, etc. Exempt from Finnish taxes. The population of Finland is estimated at 3,000,000.

Russian Government Loans on Paris Bourse.

(34) Four per cent loan of 1880. Repayable at par by means of annual drawings, the last drawing to be made in 1961. Originally issued, 150,000,000 rubles; approximately 130,000,000 rubles outstanding. Quoted in Paris, Amsterdam, and in German markets. Interest payable May and November. Fixed rates: 500 francs=125 gold rubles=£19 18s. 1d.

(35) Four per cent loan of 1890 (two series). Due prior to 1970-71 and payable by means of annual sinking funds. Issued, 165,000,000 rubles; approximately 150,000,000 rubles outstanding. Bonds quoted in Paris, Amsterdam, and Berlin. Interest payable quarterly, be-

ginning March. Fixed rates: 500 francs=125 gold rubles=\$96.25 United States gold=£19 15s. 6d.=239 Dutch florins=404 Reichsmarks.

(36) Four per cent loan of 1893. Issued, 44,500,000 rubles; approximately 42,000,000 rubles outstanding. Interest payable quarterly, beginning February. Principal and interest payable in Paris, Brussels, London, Berlin, and Hamburg (prior to war), and New York at rates of exchange as per bond No. 35.

(37) Four per cent loan of 1894. Originally issued, 113,600,000 rubles; approximately 105,000,000 rubles outstanding. Redeemable at par in 81 drawings, the final drawing being due in 1965. Principal and interest payable at places and rates prescribed under bond No. 35, and also at Copenhagen, Denmark.

(38) Four per cent loan of 1901. Issued and outstanding, 159,000,000 rubles. Interest payable quarterly, beginning March. Issued originally at Paris at 98.5 per cent. No redemption date, but Russia has the right to call any amount of the bonds at par at any time. Rates of exchange as per bond No. 35. Interest payable in the same cities.

(39) Three per cent loan of 1891-1894. Originally issued, 166,625,000 rubles; approximately 150,000,000 rubles outstanding. Bonds redeemable prior to 1974 by annual drawings. Bond interest and principal payable at same cities and under same conditions as bond No. 35, and also at Copenhagen, Denmark, with rate of principal 360 gold crowns.

(40) Four and one-half per cent loan of 1909. See description of bond No. 6.

(41) Three and eighty one-hundredths per cent Credit Foncier mutual loan (conversion loan). Issued, 85,412,400 rubles; about 81,000,000 rubles outstanding. Redeemable by means of annual sinking fund in 81 annual payments from 1898 at par. Interest payable January and July. Parities, 150 rubles=400 francs=£15 17s.=192 Dutch florins=324 Reichsmarks. Interest payable in Paris, London, Amsterdam, New York, etc.

(42) Three per cent loan of 1896. Issued and outstanding, 100,000,000 rubles. Redeemable either by purchase in the market or by drawings at par. Principal and interest (quarterly, beginning February) payable at Paris, London, Amsterdam, Brussels, New York, Berlin, and Frankfort. Parities, 500 francs=\$96.25 United States gold=£19 15s. 6d.=125 gold rubles=235 Dutch florins=360 crowns=404 Reichsmarks. The original offering price of this loan in Paris, where practically the entire loan was marketed, was 92.3 per cent, as compared with the present quotation of 59 per cent.

Russian Railway Bonds on Paris Bourse.

(43) Dvinsk-Vitebsk Railway 4 per cent bonds. See description of loan No. 11.

(44) Donets Railway 4 per cent loan of 1893. Originally issued, 6,939,500 rubles; approximately 6,000,000 rubles outstanding. Redeemable at par in 65 annual drawings, dating from 1894. Interest payable June and December. Coupons subject to a Russian tax of 5 per cent. Bonds to bearer. Principal and interest payable in Paris, London, Amsterdam, and Berlin. Principal, 500 francs=125 gold rubles=£19 15s. 6d.=239 Dutch florins=404 Reichsmarks.

(45) Kursk-Kharkof-Azof Railway 4 per cent bonds of 1894. Originally issued, 7,070,875 rubles; about 6,200,000 rubles outstanding. Issued for the conversion of the shares of the railway. Repayable at par by means of 61 annual sinking-fund drawings, beginning 1894. Coupons payable January and July and subject to a Russian tax of 5 per cent. Parities the same as bond No. 44.

In addition to bonds Nos. 43, 44, and 45, there are listed on the Paris Bourse the 4 per cent bonds of the Orel-Griasi Railway and the 3 per cent and 4 per cent bonds of the Transcaucasian Railway. These issues are not actively dealt in.

The Russian railway bonds with Government guarantees, quoted on the Paris Bourse (Nos. 46-52), have the same redemption features as other Russian bond issues. The Volga-Boulouma (Bougouloma) $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent loan was offered for subscription in Paris during 1908. The total issue is for 34,620,000 francs, and the bonds are redeemable at par by means of annual drawings, commencing 1919 (final drawings in 1987). Free from Russian taxes and unconditionally guaranteed, principal and interest, by the Russian Government.

National Loans of Recent Origin.

Since September, 1914, the principal bond issues of the Russian Empire have been as follows: (1) 5 per cent internal loan of 1914, \$255,000,000, which was offered for sale on a 5.35 per cent basis; (2) 5 per cent internal loan of February, 1915, \$255,000,000; (3) 5-year $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent internal loan of May, 1915, \$515,000,000; (4) 10-year $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent internal loan of November, 1915, \$515,000,000, offered for public subscription at 95; (5) $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent internal loan of April, 1916, \$515,000,000. In addition to these loans there have been large amounts of Treasury bills, 4 per cent Exchequer bonds, special currency loan, Imperial ruble credits, etc. Ten million pounds of the Treasury bills, due February, 1917, are listed in London. They were offered February, 1916, at 94 per cent.

A large number of bonds issued under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent loan of 1916 have found their way to the United States, and a fairly active market for them has been established. They are obtainable for about \$290 per 1,000 rubles (exchange at par about \$514.50 per 1,000 rubles). The bonds are due February 14, 1926. The yield on these bonds is approximately 5.55 per cent. In the event of the exchange value of the ruble advancing to par the yield would be approximately 8.95 per cent. Interest payable in Petrograd and other Russian cities, free from Russian income tax. These bonds are selling in Petrograd at about 960 rubles per 1,000-ruble bond; denominations, 100 rubles, 500 rubles, and 1,000 rubles.

Under date of July 10, 1916, a three-year $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent credit for \$50,000,000 was arranged between the Imperial Russian Government and a syndicate of American bankers. This credit is a direct external obligation of the Russian Government. The syndicate retains the privilege of purchasing from the Russian Government \$55,402,000 par value 5-year $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent gold bonds to be paid for out of the ruble credit at the rate of 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per ruble. The syndicate may, at its discretion, sell rubles, which are credited to them at the Bank of Russia to an amount equal to three rubles for each dollar of credit.

The Russian Government is to receive half of any profit arising from the sale of rubles, and the syndicate the other half. The

amounts received by the syndicate will be distributed among the holders of the credit, which was offered for public subscription. The yield to the investor on obligations of this issue is, at 33½ cents per ruble, 6.25 per cent. Principal and interest payable in United States gold without any deduction for Russian taxes.

Negotiations are stated to have been completed for the purchase by an American syndicate of a new issue of \$50,000,000 bonds of the Russian Government. The loan will be unsecured and will be payable in United States gold. The offering price will be on the basis of a 6½ per cent yield.

The estimated total debt of Russia as of August, 1916, was \$14,800,000,000; national income for 1915, \$8,978,300,000. Estimated population, 1916, 180,000,000. The per capita income of the nation exceeds \$50; the per capita wealth is approximately \$325. Included in the estimated total debt will be found all floating debt and advances made by other nations. Probably not more than one-fourth of all expenditures made since July, 1914, have been funded, the balance being in the form of advances made by the Bank of Russia, by Great Britain and France, or in notes, Treasury bills, etc. The nation's total debt as of July, 1914, was estimated at \$4,537,000,000.

PERIODS OF FISH MORTALITY ON FLORIDA COAST.

Reports received by the United States Bureau of Fisheries show that there were two recent periods of heavy mortality among the fishes on the west coast of Florida between Naples and Sarasota for 15 or 20 miles off shore. Outbreaks of this phenomenon, which appears to be due to natural causes, occurred on October 3 and October 18, 1916.

The beaches were lined with windrows of dead fish. Persons living in the vicinity were affected with inflammation of the mucous membrane induced by some gas, presumably sulphur dioxide, given off from the waters. There is ground for the belief that the conditions are attributable to subterranean disturbances and the release of poisonous gases which rise and pollute the waters.

CHANGE IN NAME OF RUSSIAN PORT.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 19.]

The British Board of Trade is notified, through the Foreign Office, that the name of the new Russian town and ice-free port at the terminus of the Murman Railway has been changed from Port Murman to Romanoff-on-Murman.

[Announcement of the founding of this town was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 4, 1916.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Aluminum and antimony	23036	Motor boats and trucks	23036
Automobiles	23036	Needles, knitting-machine	23035
Bicycles and accessories	23043	Notions	23043
Boots and shoes	23043	Package goods	23043
Rotting machinery	23039	Photographs and records	23043
Cloth and clothing	23043	Photographic supplies	23043
Copper, lead, and tin	23036	Pipe fittings	23044
Cutlery	23043	Rubber goods	23044
Fireworks	23043	Sanitary fixtures	23044
Flour	23041	Sewing machines	23043
Furniture and fittings	23043	Sporting and athletic goods	23043
General merchandise	23040	Steel	23036
Groceries and provisions	23043	Toilet articles	23043
Hardware, builders'	23037	Toilet soaps and perfumery	23043
Hose, garden	23044	Tools	23038
Hosiery	23043	Toys and games	23043
Lathes	23038	Typewriters and supplies	23043
Lighting fixtures	23044	Underwear	23043
Millinery	23043	Wearing apparel	23043

23035.†—A firm in the United States desires to secure for its clients in Spain proposals for the manufacture of knitting-machine needles, for which an order for 20,000 can be placed. A blue print showing the needle map be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 165.)

23036.†—A firm in Denmark desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles, motor trucks, motor boats, antimony, copper, lead, tin, steel, and aluminum interested in extending their business in that country and in Norway and Sweden. References.

23037.*—A firm in Central America is in the market for builders' hardware, such as hinges, drawer pulls, door knobs, drawer knobs, screw hooks, and miscellaneous hooks, latches, etc. Correspondence in English. References.

23038.*—A business man in the Netherlands desires to act as agent on a commission basis for American manufacturers of lathes and tools of all kinds. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23039.*—A firm in a foreign colonial possession is in the market for self-filling and corking machine for crown-cork bottles. Cash will be paid with order.

23040.†—A firm in Russia desires to enter into commercial relations with American exporters of general merchandise. No particular line is specified. Correspondence in German.

23041.†—A merchant in the West Indies wishes to secure direct representation of an American flour mill.

23042.†—A commission agent in Greece desires to represent an American manufacturer of automobiles, 3 H. P. to 15 H. P.

23043.*—A wholesale firm in Chile desires to secure the services of a New York or other export house for the purchase of cloth, shirts, underclothing, hosiery, package goods, toilet soaps and perfumery, boots and shoes, suits for men and boys, tailored clothing for women and girls, bicycles and accessories, toilet articles, cutlery, fireworks, furniture and fittings, groceries and provisions, millinery, notions, photographs and records, photographic supplies, sewing machines, sporting and athletic goods, toys and games, typewriters and supplies, etc. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23044.*—An import house in New Zealand desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of builders' hardware, sanitary fixtures, gas-lighting fixtures, malleable cast-pipe fittings for gas, water, and steam (English threads), garden hose and rubber goods for household use.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 273 Washington, D. C., Monday, November 20 1916

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BRITISH PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF JEWELRY.

[Cablegram from American vice consul, London, Nov. 17.]

The importation of jewelry and all manufactures of gold and silver other than watches and watchcases is now prohibited except under license.

RUSSIAN RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS.

A cablegram dated November 15, 1916, from the American Ambassador at Petrograd, states that the port of Vladivostok has been closed to private shipments. Permits for such consignments may be obtained from the General Naval Staff upon a recommendation by the Minister of Trade, who must certify that such imports are necessary for consumption in Russia. The list of articles the importation of which has been prohibited is very long, comprising approximately 200 items. Plain clothing and necessary foodstuffs, as well as munitions of war purchased by the Government, are excepted from the prohibition.

The British Board of Trade Journal for October 26, 1916, published the following complete list of articles, the importation of which into Russia it was proposed to prohibit:

Various fresh or dried vegetables (tariff No. 5-5); fresh or dried fruits and berries (ex 6); dried fruits and berries(7); mustard, not prepared (12); canned goods(13); truffles and mushrooms (14); tobacco, cut, in rolls, coils, or carrots, and snuff (21-2); cigars, cigarettes, and cut tobacco wrapped in tobacco leaves (21-3); confectionery, jams, jellies, and fruits with sugar or spirits (ex 24-1); fruit juices, sirups, and preparations without sugar (24-2); pastry (ex 24-3); hops and extracts of hops (26); spirits, liqueurs, etc., ether, spirits for heating, and denatured spirits (27); wines of various kinds (28); beer, porter, and mead (29); vinegar (31); mineral waters (32); cheese (35); certain fresh fish (37-1, a); preserved fish (37-2); oysters, lobsters, etc. (38); human hair, not prepared (45-1); certain feathers and down (47); lacquered skins and parings of the same (ex 55-2, 55-4); certain fur skins (56-1); footwear of silk fabric (ex 57-2); leather gloves and small leather articles (57-3); traveling and sporting goods of leather, jute, and hemp (57-5); carved and ornamental articles of wood, plaster, etc. (61-3); fine cabinet work (61-4); cer-

tain furniture (61-5); dried flowers and leaves (62-6); certain basketware (ex 64-2 and 3); precious and semiprecious stones, unset (67); stones, sculptured, etc. (70-1); ornamental terra cotta (74-3); common clay crockery and pottery (74-4b); earthenware, ornamented (75-3); certain porcelain ware and ornaments (76-2); fine porcelain ornaments (76-3); cut and fancy glassware (77-4); glass articles, ornamented (77-5); mirrors and certain sheet glass (77-7a and 78-3); certain cosmetics without alcohol (119-1); perfumery and cosmetics with alcohol (ex 119-2); toilet soap in any form (120-1); gold and silver jewelry and manufactures, with or without stones (148-2 and 4); fabric, braid, wire, etc., of gold, silver, and tinsel (148-6); certain platinum manufactures (ex 148-8); ornaments and ornamented articles of copper, aluminum, nickel, and other metals (149-3 and 4); fine cutlery ware (158-2); optical goods in fine mountings (170); pianos and other musical instruments (ex 172); cardboard wares of all kinds (ex 177-4); cotton velvet and plush (189); certain silk fabrics and manufactures (ex 195, 196); fabrics, etc., of half silk (197); woolen fabrics, printed (200); woolen carpets (203); knit goods of silk and half silk (205-1, a, b); certain trimmings (205-2); tulle other than of silk (206); lace and lace manufactures (207); embroideries (208); clothing, underwear, and women's trimmed hats, fur caps, and fur-trimmed caps (209); thread, fabrics and certain manufactures of cotton, wool, and other fibers when containing silk, gold, silver, platinum, or tinsel (183-209); buckram hat frames (ex 210); umbrellas and parasols of all kinds (211); ornamental feathers and artificial flowers and plants (213); jet, certain beads and manufactures thereof (214); fancy articles, toilet articles, and toys, common and fine (215).

According to information received by the Board of Trade, goods which were en route to Russia before the promulgation of the decree establishing the prohibition will be admitted to importation upon arrival in Russia.

FROZEN MEAT EXPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Oct. 11.]

The export of frozen meat from South Africa is assuming large proportions. The total export of frozen meats amounted to 3,000 tons in 1915; this amount was equaled this year by one shipment.

The season opened on April 22, 1916, and up to September 7 about 5,000 tons, of an estimated value of \$973,300, had been exported. In view of the fact that the meat export trade will continue until Christmas, a considerable increase is expected over the shipments of 1915. Practically all of this meat for exportation comes from the Transvaal and Natal, with only a small quantity from the Orange Free State.

The development of this industry has given rise to a demand for the compulsory grading of cattle. The need of the importation of shorthorn cattle into South Africa is being encouraged by circulating pamphlets among the farmers. These circulars are illustrated with pictures and serve the dual purpose of informing the farmer of the desirability of raising the standard of cattle, and also impresses upon him the need for the control of all diseases.

[Previous reports on the meat industry of South Africa were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 2, 1915, and Jan. 17, 1916.]

New Mining Code in Honduras.

Amendments to the mining code of Honduras appear in a recent number of Centro America. These amendments, which became effective July 1, include regulations for the acquiring and working of mines, for the payment of taxes, and exportation of products.

FOREIGN BRANCHES OF CANADIAN BANKS.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nov. 8.]

Two of Canada's many chartered banks have already recognized the advantages to be gained by establishing branches in foreign countries and are to-day doing business under their own direct control in the islands of the West Indies and along the Caribbean littoral. The Bank of Nova Scotia and the Royal Bank of Canada, both of them institutions which originated in the Maritime Provinces, are the pioneers in this branch of enterprise. Commercial relations between the eastern Canadian seaboard and the islands of the western North Atlantic have long been firmly established, and it is, therefore, only natural to find Canadian banks following the route of Canadian cargoes in Canadian vessels to their destinations overseas and establishing themselves there for the convenience of their clients and their own profit.

The foreign branches which the Bank of Nova Scotia has established are situated at Habana, Cuba; San Juan, Porto Rico; and in Jamaica at Kingston, Black River, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Anns Bay, Savana la Mar, and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has branches in Cuba at Antilla, Bayamo, Caibarien, Camaguey, Cardenas, Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Guantanamo, Habana (4), Manzanillo, Matanzas, Nuevitass, Pinar del Rio, Puerto Padre, Sagua la Grande, Sancti Spiritus, Santa Clara, Santiago de Cuba; in Porto Rico, at Mayaguez, Ponce, San Juan; in the Dominican Republic, at Santo Domingo, San Pedro de Macoris; in Trinidad, at Port of Spain, San Fernando; in British Guiana, at Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Rose Hall (Corentyn); also at San Jose, Costa Rico; Belize, British Honduras; St. John's, Antigua; Nassau, Bahamas; Bridgetown, Barbados; Roseau, Dominica; St. Georges, Grenada; Kingston, Jamaica; and Basse-Terre, St. Kitts.

HUDDERSFIELD'S TRADE IN WOOLENS AND WORSTEDS.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Oct. 27.]

It is said there are but few buyers in the Huddersfield market for woollens and worsteds; still manufacturers in the worsted trade seem to be well employed, and they are declining orders for delivery even 12 months hence, so difficult is it to foretell future conditions as to cost of production and demand. The present trade is chiefly with the United States, France, Denmark, and the Netherlands. The home trade in worsteds is almost stagnant, as the manufacturers, although they name prices and solicit business, are unable to guarantee a price much longer than from week to week. The home trade in the woolen section is also almost at a standstill, as all available machinery is busy with orders for the Government, and also for France, Russia, and Italy. Tweeds for the colonies are in good demand, and a ready sale for suit goods is easily found in the Far Eastern markets.

The municipality of San Salvador has contracted a loan of 135,000 pesos (about \$56,700) to be used in building a new market place of reinforced cement.

CAR FERRY ACROSS NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nov. 8.]

In order to relieve congestion and to eliminate the expense of extra handling of freight between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, a car-ferry service from Cape Tormentine on the mainland to Carleton Point on the island was authorized some time ago by the Canadian Government. The work of carrying out the project has now advanced to such a stage that the end of the current calendar year is expected to see the new service in full operation.

Excellent progress has been made in the preparation of both terminals. The weather has been exceptionally favorable of late, there having been no severe storms to interfere with the transportation of materials or with the necessarily exposed undertakings on the water front. The station on the New Brunswick side is finished. Increased yard accommodation has been provided and sidings are laid on the wharf. On the Prince Edward Island end, although there yet remains much to be done, the contractors are working rapidly and anticipate an early conclusion of their task.

The distance between the terminals is approximately 9 miles, and the intervening strait is often dangerous for any but full-powered craft. The boat which will serve the route has been designed with special regard to the local conditions. It is of large size, with a freeboard much greater than that of ordinary car ferries; is heavily built to cope with ice, and is equipped with powerful engines.

A diversion of traffic from the route hitherto used will follow the inauguration of the new ferry. Point du Chene has long been the New Brunswick railway terminus, at which connection has been made by boat for Summerside, Prince Edward Island. [See **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Mar. 13 and May 17, 1916.] Now, however, the traffic will go via Sackville, New Brunswick, to Cape Tormentine, where the car ferry will transport both freight and passengers via Carleton Point and the railway to Charlottetown and other Prince Edward Island points.

NORWEGIAN LUMBER AND PAPER COMPANY FOR RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Nov. 13.]

A stock company with a capital of \$933,300 is being formed in Norway with a view to buying forest areas in Russia along the Dwina. A committee formed for this purpose has been investigating the matter and proposes that a cellulose mill (with a capacity of 10,000 tons a year) be built at Kotlas, situated where the Vitchevda falls into the Dwina. Kotlas is a convenient situation for such an industry, being connected with Petrograd and Moscow by railroad. The production is calculated for home consumption in Russia, and no export is intended, at least for the time being. Timber of large dimensions will be sent to the sawmills at Archangel. The company will buy forests from the Russian Government, which does not sell them as freehold properties, but only as far as the trees are concerned. The contracts in this case extend over 30 years.

BRAZILIAN TELEPHONE LINES MERGE INTERESTS.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 24.]

By a decree published October 24, 1916 (No. 12211 of Sept. 20, 1916.), the President of the Republic of Brazil has permitted the Interurban Telephone Co. of Brazil and the Companhia Rêde Telephonica Bragantina to join their lines along the frontiers of the States of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro and the Federal District of the Republic at whatever points these junctions may be found necessary, and the companies may proceed to exploit the new system thus created under the provisions of article 99 of Law No. 3089 of January 8, 1916. This merging of interests will make possible something like general telephone communication through an exceedingly important and busy portion of the country.

It has been estimated, although there is some doubt as to the accuracy of the calculation, that there is in this portion of the country one telephone to each 100 inhabitants. The use of the telephone booth with a pay station has not gained much popularity, although a few have been established and bring in very profitable returns.

Companies Which are Now Operating.

The system in São Paulo is in the hands of the Companhia Telephonica do Estado de São Paulo, which is a branch of the Canadian Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Co. of this city, and the Companhia Rêde Telephonica Bragantina. The former of these companies was said some time ago to have 8,000 subscribers in São Paulo, Santos, and Campos alone. The Companhia Rêde Telephonica Bragantina, with headquarters in the city of São Paulo, serves nearly 5,000 subscribers and connects 171 cities and towns in the States of Minas Geraes and São Paulo. Some smaller local companies also operate.

RICE PRODUCTION IN PERU.

In two coast Departments of Peru (Lambayeque and La Libertad) the cultivation of rice claims the attention of the greater part of the inhabitants. The land is fertile, there is an abundance of water, and the climate is favorable to the production of rice. Being so favored by natural conditions the rice planters have not yet begun to fertilize their land, as is done in other rice-growing countries, but take advantage of the extensive areas to let part of their ground lie fallow. About 60,000 acres in these two Departments are cultivated in rice, giving an average yield of about 1,500 pounds of rice per acre. The West Coast Leader in a recent issue states that this yield could probably be doubled if the land were thoroughly fertilized.

Little change is noted in the production of rice from year to year. New implements for cultivating and thrashing the rice are now coming in use, however, and the crop of 1915-16 shows a slight increase over that of 1914-15. It is estimated that the total production of rice in Peru, including the yield from Provinces in which rice is cultivated as only one of several crops, will reach 40,000 metric tons in 1915-16. The quality of Peruvian rice is said to be unexcelled, and it finds a market in other countries as well as at home. In 1913 Peru exported \$380,686 worth of rice and imported \$546,313 worth; in 1914 the exports amounted to \$305,480 and the imports to \$401,591.

SUGGESTIONS TO AMERICAN EXPORTERS.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Oct. 26.]

Criticisms of American methods, especially those adopted by firms new to the export trade, have occasionally been made to the Bradford consulate, but hitherto few of these criticisms have been written in such a friendly strain and with so evident a desire to offer helpful suggestions as the letter (just received from a firm in the chemical and color trade) from which the following paragraphs are taken:

As you are no doubt aware at the beginning of this war and for a considerable time thereafter we were extremely dependent upon the United States for chemicals, and the demand was so great that American chemical manufacturers could dictate their own terms. Among other conditions it was in most cases necessary to remit credits to New York along with orders without any specific guaranty in regard to quality or strength. Such terms were perforce accepted. Although not the direct fault of the seller, but often as the result of rail and dock congestion, there were considerable delays and consequent irritation and loss through the arrivals of the goods here after the promised time.

These terms and their consequences have undoubtedly estranged the American exporter and, in my opinion, will have a lasting effect upon the export trade of America. Had this policy been abandoned early it might not have been felt; but it is even yet being practiced, and I attribute this as much to ignorance of the conditions necessary for building up a future and stable business as to a certain spirit of independence which the earlier experiences of the war engendered. These cash-with-order terms are still being required by large and important makers of new products seeking new markets—a course which, I am sure, must render their efforts and energies in propaganda work practically nugatory.

The American "Advertising Trait."

There is another trait of the American exporter which has shown itself within the last few months more prominently, owing to his desire to seek new markets, and which I should call the "advertising trait." The attempt is now being made, with regard to specialties in the chemical or tinctorial line, to offer these broadcast, in typewritten letters, over the whole of the United Kingdom. These circulars find their way into every nook and cranny of the trade—to branches of associations, to private individuals—and are in most cases all of one set type with set prices.

Where these goods are competing against already established lines, the results, I feel certain, must be most disappointing, as no one can have any interest in testing or pushing an article the price and terms of which do not differ for the large user or for the small one, for the merchant or for the middleman. Imagine a comparatively small user in Bradford being asked to order goods in New York and to open a credit there and pay for them there, to be shipped "as soon as possible" (a very elastic term so far as shipment at present goes), when he can have the same or similar products which he has used for many years delivered into his back yard.

Need for a Settled Trade Policy.

The American exporter, moreover, is prepared to think and to talk only in very large amounts and forgets the necessity of distribution in small and varied quantities. The manufacturer and exporter can not have it both ways: either they should be prepared to deal with large factors in Great Britain on special terms, leaving them a reasonable margin of profit for distribution to consumers, or they should select, in industrial areas, a commercial agent to whom they should consign stocks for distribution and sale on ordinary trade terms in English money competitively against other makers, reserving the agent a reasonable commission and sufficiently wide field for his energies. The latter method is that adopted by most exporters of long experience in the chemical business. The commission agent sells and makes contracts on behalf of his principal in America, and in course of time the American firm is not only introduced but is gradually advertised and becomes well known to those who are using regularly its products.

In my opinion the present methods adopted by the large chemical makers and exporters in this country will do them a large amount of harm and will have

the contrary effect to what they desire. While the war is on, abnormal conditions prevail; but as soon as normal conditions are restored the American chemical trade, including the color and intermediate trade, will find itself very much handicapped unless beforehand it adapts itself to more reasonable conditions of trade and enters more closely into the trading conditions of the countries to which it desires to export.

INSPECTION OF RING LIFE BUOYS.

The United States Steamboat-Inspection Service, in a circular letter dated November 13, 1916, issued instructions to the inspectors of the service modifying the requirements for the approval and inspection of ring life buoys. The circular letter provides as follows:

Owing to the fact that the requirements and specifications for the construction and inspection of ring life buoys were not issued until about May 1, 1916, and that some buoys which were manufactured and shipped subsequent to the formulation of the rule governing their construction were not exactly in accordance with the requirements and specifications of the rule, the bureau now decides that all life buoys which were manufactured and shipped prior to July 1, 1916, may be accepted as conforming to the requirements.

All ring buoys which have been manufactured since July 1, 1916, must be in strict accordance with the rule governing their construction, and must have been inspected by an inspector of this service, and no such buoy manufactured or shipped since July 1, 1916, will be accepted unless it meets the requirements of the rules and regulations as incorporated in the rules now in force.

Manufacturers of ring life buoys will notify the local inspectors of the respective districts in which the factories are situated whenever they have ring life buoys ready for inspection, and upon the receipt of such notice an inspector will inspect and test the buoys.

Inspectors when inspecting and testing buoys will see that they are constructed in accordance with the rule, and that they meet the specified requirements for buoyancy, strength, etc. Buoys must be plainly stamped or branded by the manufacturer and inspector before being covered, and manufacturers and inspectors will also plainly stamp the buoys after they are covered. The manufacturer's stamp on the cover of the buoy will be accepted by the inspector as evidence that the buoy before being covered was tested and stamped in accordance with these directions.

Local inspectors will furnish manufacturers and dealers in ring life buoys within their respective districts with copies of this circular letter.

PAPER YARNS METRICALLY NUMBERED IN GERMANY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Oct. 29.]

The production of paper yarn in Germany is steadily increasing. In accord with the desire of various industries concerned the paper yarns are now being metrically numbered instead of measured by the old English "count." This may be important for the future, when [as noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 24, 1916] metrical numbering in Germany will also be introduced for cotton yarns.

[A short article on "Paper twine and yarn in Germany" appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 29, 1916, and in connection therewith samples of German-made paper twine were offered for inspection under File No. 73030.]

SMALL SCHOONERS IN THE LUMBER TRADE.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 11.]

The use of small schooners in the North Atlantic carrying trade is one of the commercial innovations resulting from the European war. Mention has been made of several instances of craft of very moderate tonnage making successful voyages between this side of the Atlantic and ports in Europe. Reports show that the ships of at least one other country are sharing in the profits of this trade.

The statement was published recently that a shipping firm in Chatham, New Brunswick, had already dispatched 12 steamers and 55 sailing vessels since the beginning of the current season, all of them lumber laden. As this indicated unusually large business, Chatham not being one of the Dominion's chief shipping centers, it is explained that nearly all of the 55 sailing vessels mentioned were Danish schooners of about 200 registered tons each, whose carrying capacity is not more than one-tenth that of an ordinary lumber "tramp."

Diverted from Their Regular Trade.

These little vessels since the war began have been diverted from their regular trade with Baltic ports and have reaped a rich harvest in freights. During last season about 100 craft of this class were entered at the port mentioned and two other small ports to load lumber for over-seas destinations, their cargoes averaging about 100 standards each. A standard is roughly 2,000 superficial feet.

Freight rates for neutral vessels from Chatham to European ports were as high as 420 shillings (\$102.20) per standard at the beginning of the season, but now have dropped to about 260 shillings (\$63.26) per standard. The latter figure is approximately six times higher than the rates prevailing before the outbreak of the war.

SPAIN INCREASES CEMENT PRODUCTION.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 14.]

The production of hydraulic cements in Spain has of late increased considerably in order to supply the domestic demand, as imports have fallen off. There are now 9 plants devoted to the making of Portland cement, 5 of which are of comparatively recent construction. At present about 350,000 tons of cement are produced annually, and arrangements are under way to bring the output to 500,000 tons. As the domestic consumption of cement amounts to some 450,000 tons annually, a margin will remain for export.

In 1913 Spain imported over 90,000 tons of cement, lime of all kinds, and puzzolana, while in 1915 this figure decreased to 21,000 tons. Over half of the supply of 1913 came from France and considerable quantities from Austria and England. Judging from the amount imported during the first half of 1916, the whole year will show a marked decrease compared with 1915.

Natural cement was produced in Spain in 1914 to the amount of 255,000 tons. Sixty-one plants were in operation, 12 of which were in the Province of Barcelona, 11 in the Balearic Islands, and 11 in Gerona, the remainder being in Guipuzcoa, Tarragona, Lerida, Valencia, and Huesca, embracing altogether 218 kilns and employing 1,430 hands. Six plants, with 16 kilns and 1,092 hands, produced cements of the Portland class yielding 219,000 tons.

JAPAN'S TEXTILE AND IRON INDUSTRIES.

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 5.]

It is reported that Japan's cotton trade with China is on the wane as a result of the abnormal advances in yarn quotations in the Osaka market and that its place is being taken by Indian goods. According to a report published by the Associated Cotton Spinning Companies, and quoted by the Japan Mail, Japan's yarn trade in the closing 10 days of September alone fell off by 3,633½ bales, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding month. In comparison with the corresponding period of last year the decrease amounts to 6,086 bales. The total volume for the period is 11,476 bales, making the total for the entire month 39,356 bales.

The recovery from this loss, says the Mail, will be somewhat difficult for the Japanese cotton men, who have to depend upon the United States for their raw material. The mills have still to buy 300,000 bales of cotton, following their purchase of 200,000 bales early this year. The Mail says that some first-class mills have already laid in part of the required stocks in anticipation of a shortage, but all the second-class mills which have laid in but small stocks of cheaper cotton will be hard hit.

The newspaper states that it is true that their apparent loss as the result of the rise in the price of American cotton may be recouped to some extent by mixing Indian goods with their American cotton, but that not much of the loss can be made good without transferring part of the increased cost to the shoulders of the buyers. It will thus become still more difficult for them to regain their lost market in China against the invasion of cheap Indian goods.

Though full particulars are not yet known, the situation adds interest to the discussion of a plan for the purchase of a cotton mill in Shanghai by certain Japanese cotton magnates. The mill to be bought runs 30,000 spindles and occupies an important position locally.

New Iron Manufacturing Company.

Business men connected with the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and the Osaka Iron Works, according to the Japan Chronicle, are behind a project to establish a company for the manufacture of iron chains, anchors, rivets, and various iron articles used in shipbuilding, with a capital of 2,000,000 yen (\$997,000). The Chronicle quotes the Jiji as saying that the entire capital has already been subscribed by the promoters. The method of launching the projected company will be to convert by purchase the interests of the Osaka Seisasho and a formal establishment will be announced. The new company will be called the Kabushiki Kaisha Osaka Seisasho.

Statistics of Workers in Factories.

The Sale and Frazar Geppo states that women workers in factories largely outnumber the male workers in Japan. A recent Government announcement, it says, shows that there are 486,481 female workers, as against 81,106 male workers in the 13,249 dyeing and weaving factories of the country. The machinery factories employ 4,448 women and 94,171 men; chemical, 29,796 female workers and 63,627 male; food and drinks, 13,984 females and 64,621 males, and other factories 30,599 females and 80,432 males. The total number of factory workers in Japan includes 564,308 female and 383,957 male employees.

DUTCH MARKET FOR FILING CABINETS.

[Paul L. Edwards, secretary to commercial attaché, The Hague, Netherlands, Oct. 19.]

American steel filing cabinets could obtain a market in the Netherlands if the proper efforts were made by American exporters. Just at present, owing to scarcity and high cost of freight space and to other war difficulties, it is practically impossible to do any business in this line. The freight alone on a steel cabinet averages approximately 65 per cent of the value of the article. Added to this is the 5 per cent Dutch import duty, which is calculated on the value in the Netherlands, i. e., cost, insurance, and freight, plus Netherlands Oversea Trust and commission charges. The American exporters of filing furniture are now asking for a credit, or even cash, with the order; and as such freights ordinarily take from nine to eleven months actually to reach the Netherlands, the Dutch dealer loses another 5 per cent in interest on his purchase money. Under such adverse conditions practically no steel filing cabinets are coming from the United States at the present time.

Wooden Cabinets Preferred—Necessity of Careful Packing.

The Netherlands seems to have a slight preference for wooden filing cabinets. The Dutch business man ordinarily has a well-furnished office, with wooden desks and chairs and wooden filing cabinets to match. Hundreds of business men have their offices in their own houses, and such men seem to prefer wooden filing furniture. The moist and variable climate does not seem to offer any obstacles to the satisfactory use of well-seasoned oak furniture. American oak cabinets do not have to pay such high freight as steel cabinets, as the former may be entirely dismounted for shipment.

The principal steel filing cabinets are of German make and are generally said to be cheap in appearance and noisy. American cabinets are nearly always preferred where price is not a determining consideration.

Probably American makers of filing cabinets would have difficulty in displacing the market for German steel cabinets, but the American make could establish a market of its own. This has already been done to some extent, as is evidenced by the reputation of the American article for high quality. For this purpose it would be best that only the highest grade American article be sent over to the Netherlands. Great care should be taken in packing so that the goods may arrive in perfect condition. Even the makers of the best American cabinets occasionally have been guilty of inadequately packing their shipments. This makes a very bad impression, especially with a new article. An assorted consignment of the best American cabinets, arriving in perfect condition and displayed by a first-class Dutch house, probably would open at once and for many years a profitable market for that particular make.

Sizes Used—No Present Imports—Terms—Market in Dutch East Indies.

The size of cabinets that seems to be most used is four drawers high, 30 inches deep, with drawers 12 inches high by 12 or 14 inches wide. The single drawer, 30 inches deep, 12 inches high, and 14 inches wide, is also in great demand.

At present the Netherlands is importing practically no filing furniture, and probably will import none until the end of the war.

Americans should take advantage of this condition and should obtain some of the orders for restocking.

Germany customarily allows three months' credit on such purchases as steel filing cabinets. While it is not necessary that Americans grant equal or better terms in order to enter this market, they can not continue to demand cash with orders, if they hope to make any progress toward building up a market here for steel filing cabinets.

If American cabinets meet with success in the Netherlands a new and large market may be opened in the Dutch East Indies. Filing furniture there is preferably of steel, as various tropical insects attack the wood.

[A list of Dutch dealers in office furniture who might handle American steel filing cabinets may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its branch or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1982.]

SOUTH AFRICA'S TRADE FOR EIGHT MONTHS.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, Oct. 8.]

Newspapers in Cape Town discuss the foreign trade of the Union of South Africa for two-thirds of 1916. The value of imports was nearly 25 per cent larger than during the corresponding period of 1915. There was apparently a similar increase in exports, although definite information is not available because the value of gold shipments is not included in the published statistics. The Cape Argus, in its comment, states:

Both imports and exports are shown to have largely increased, and although no figures of internal production are available, we know that the farming industry throughout the Union is making surprising headway. The value of imports into the Union during the eight months of the present year ended August 31 last was £27,222,721 (\$132,479,372), compared with £21,734,065 for the corresponding period of the previous year, while the value of the exports (excluding gold shipments) was £14,127,956 (\$68,753,698), as against £10,083,570. In view of the fact that the figures relating to the export of raw gold are not available, it is impossible to say whether the balance of trade is in our favor or against us, but it is fair to assume that it is greatly in our favor. In any case, the totals quoted can be regarded as very satisfactory. The percentage of our trade with the United Kingdom has slightly decreased, while our percentage with foreign countries has correspondingly increased.

The most interesting items in the report are those which deal with the exports during the eight months, as these supply clear evidence of the effect of high prices in stimulating exports. For example, it appears that our exports of grain increased in value from £391,952 to £796,234, wool from £3,587,111 to £4,110,783, and skins and hides from £1,035,983 to £1,316,128. Other products, such as fruit, also show satisfactory increases.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

ARGENTINE TRADE IN AMMUNITION.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario.]

While no figures are available showing the imports of ammunition into the Rosario district alone, the use of firearms is quite general and the demand for ammunition is good. Game, particularly ducks and partridges, is abundant and hunting is a popular sport throughout the district. In the country, where the population is scattered, the rifle is very common; the revolver is much carried in both country and cities.

Shotgun shells are made on a large scale in Buenos Aires, and as the duty is high the demand for imported shells is, I am informed largely confined to special grades and certain sizes not made in Buenos Aires. There is, however, a good market for rifle and revolver cartridges from abroad. My informants also point out that many consumers reload shotgun shells, and that there is at present a great scarcity of and excellent demand for caps.

Types and Sizes in Greatest Demand.

Taking 10 as a maximum, the demand for the principal types and sizes of ammunition used here is said to be represented fairly closely by the following figures:

Rifle cartridges.—Flobert and similar—6-millimeter, ball load 2, shot load 4; 9-millimeter, ball load 7, single-shot load 8, double-shot load 10; various types, .22-caliber, 3; Winchester—small 4, .44-caliber 7.

Revolver cartridges.—Smith & Wesson and similar—.32-caliber, short 3, long 10; .38-caliber, short 8, special 6; Velo dog, 6-millimeter, 5; Browning—7.65-millimeter 10, 6.35-millimeter 6.

Shotgun shells.—12-gauge, 1; 16-gauge, 10; 20-gauge, 3; 24-gauge, 2; 28-gauge, 2; 12-millimeter, 6; 14-millimeter, 5.

The foregoing list is not complete. It merely includes the kinds of ammunition for which the demand is said to be best. As respects shotgun shells, I am informed that the last five sizes indicated are either not made in Buenos Aires or not produced in sufficient quantity to meet the demand and that these sizes are consequently imported. The market for imported 12 and 16 gauge shells is largely confined to special grades.

No Restrictions on Imports—Duty.

There are no restrictions on the sale of firearms excepting such as are of a strictly military nature (*armas de guerra*). This applies also to ammunition. The Government supervises the importation and placing on the market of arms and ammunition suitable for military purposes. It appears, however, that regulations do not operate as a hindrance on legitimate trade.

Cartridges and shells are classified under paragraphs 1652 (empty) and 1653 (loaded) of the Argentine import tariff, and are subject to a duty of 50 per cent, to which must be added the usual surtax of 2 per cent assessed on all imports the duty on which is 10 per cent or over. This duty of 52 per cent is collected not on the invoice value but on the "aforo" or official valuation for customs purposes, which is 1.20 gold pesos per kilo for empty and 70 gold centavos per kilo for loaded cartridges. This is in reality equivalent to a specific duty of 27.3 cents United States currency per pound for empty and 15.9 cents per pound for loaded cartridges. In addition to

the foregoing duties, the tariff prescribes certain official charges for customs handling, storage, and statistics, which amount to a little under 1 per cent of the value of the merchandise. These duties and charges apply to imports from all countries, there being no preferential or conventional rates.

Certain makes of ammunition which were imported from the United States before the war have a good hold on the market, and dealers state that it will not be easy to compete with them. There is at the present time an excellent demand for the types of ammunition formerly imported from European countries which can not now supply them. These include particularly the Browning (7.65 and 6.35 millimeter) and Velo dog (6-millimeter) revolver cartridges and Flobert (6 and 9 millimeter) rifle cartridges. An American firm able to deliver such ammunition promptly would undoubtedly find a ready sale for its products.

Sales Methods and Terms.

As a rule, in order to secure a foothold in this market, a personal representative should be sent out to study conditions and get in touch with dealers. This visit may be repeated periodically, or an agency may be placed with a local importer or commission man. It is usually easier to interest commission men than importers. The former do not, however, purchase goods themselves but merely place orders on a commission basis.

The recognized credit terms here are 90 days from the arrival of goods, but many importers are accustomed to pay cash against documents when dealing with American firms. It is often well to offer the customer an opportunity to inspect the merchandise before accepting the documents. If it is desired to build up a permanent business, it is advisable to offer some credit facilities.

Prices quoted f. o. b. New York are acceptable to the leading Rosario houses. When practicable c. i. f. quotations are to be preferred, particularly when dealing with smaller concerns whose facilities for information may be limited.

At the present time very few vessels come through to Rosario from American ports. Goods can, however, be transhipped at Buenos Aires.

Correspondence intended for this district should be in Spanish.

[A list of Rosario importers of arms and ammunition may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 80814.]

PACKERS REGISTER HOUSE FLAG AND FUNNEL MARKS.

The United States Bureau of Navigation announces the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of the following-described house flag and funnel marks of the Alaska Packers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.:

House flag—a fish-tailed flag divided into three triangular fields by broad blue lines extending from the upper and lower points of the outer ends of the flag to the opposite inner corners and around the entire outer edge. The field adjacent to the flagstaff is black, with the letter A in the center, and the other fields are red.

Funnel marks—a broad white band with the house flag on each side imposed on a black funnel.

CHILEAN MARKET FOR DYES.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Oct. 2.]

For some years the United States has been the principal source of supply of the leather dyes imported into Chile, but prior to 1915 it had little share in the general dyestuff trade with that country. Both the leather and cloth dyes imported are chiefly the blacks. The yellow dyes for leather are obtained from algarobilla, which is native to Chile. During the present year the United States has been depended upon for Chile's supply of nigrosine.

Statistics of the imports of dyestuffs in 1913, 1914, and 1915, shown by countries, are as follows:

Countries.	1913		1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Alizarin, aniline, and dyes in general:	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Belgium.....	9,981	\$6,624	3,278	\$2,175	407	\$270
France.....	3,410	2,263	2,752	1,826	22	14
Germany.....	93,619	62,129	65,212	43,278	5,964	3,971
Italy.....			2,303	1,528	11	7
United Kingdom.....	28,131	18,669	12,155	8,066	684	454
United States of America.....	117	77	33	22	5,071	3,365
Others.....	16	10	434	258	75	50
Total.....	135,273	89,772	86,167	57,183	12,254	8,133
Indigo:						
Belgium.....			95	94		
Germany.....	4,252	4,233	1,155	1,150	374	372
Spain.....			634	630		
United Kingdom.....	1,100	1,095	420	418		
Total.....	5,352	5,328	2,304	2,292	374	372
Cochineal, lac dye:						
Germany.....	26	13				
Carmine:						
Belgium.....	2	9				7
France.....	13	55			2	
Germany.....	111	460	164	679	4	18
United Kingdom.....	2	10	20	107	5	24
United States of America.....			1	7		
Total.....	128	534	191	793	11	49
Dyes for leather:						
Belgium.....	2,816	280	1,012	101		
France.....	8,580	854	2,585	257	33	3
Germany.....	4,004	399	5,236	521		
United Kingdom.....	1,650	164	1,331	132	306	30
United States of America.....	125,521	12,495	16,016	1,595	14,377	1,431
Total.....	142,571	14,192	26,180	2,606	14,806	1,473
Grand total.....	283,350	100,839	114,842	62,874	27,445	10,026

Chile presents a very limited market for dyes and dyestuffs because of the small development of the textile industry. The mills making stockings and underwear and knit goods in general import dyed yarns for color work and consume only a small quantity of dyes.

Experiments with American Dyes Not Satisfactory—Import Centers.

The experiments so far made with American dyes in this country have not been entirely satisfactory. One local concern reports that it obtained a very curious type of violet color on middy cloth through the use of an American dye which should have given a navy blue,

and that one lot of cotton trouserings was spoiled in the dyeing because of the irregular and splotchy effect of the dye.

Some 60 per cent of all the dye imports are received at Valparaiso. Talcahuano is the second port of importance in this line and receives about 20 per cent of the dyestuffs other than leather dyes. The imports at Talcahuano are principally for the cloth mills at Tome, near Concepcion, at which place more wool is dyed than in any other section of Chile.

Dyes are imported to some extent by the local knitting mills, cloth mills, and shoe factories (which operate their own tanneries). They are also imported as stock or on order by the large importing houses.

Import Duties on Dyestuffs.

The following are the duties on dyestuffs as stated in the Chilean customs tariff of 1916: Alizarin and imitations, fuchsine, rosaniline, nigrosine, and aniline dyes in general, 1.20 pesos gold per kilo legal weight (net weight plus interior packing), or \$0.20 per pound; añil or indigo, indigotine, natural or synthetic, 1.80 peso gold per kilo gross weight, or \$0.30 per pound; cochineal and lac dye, 0.99 peso gold per kilo gross weight, or \$0.15 per pound; carmine, 7.50 pesos gold per kilo legal weight (net weight plus interior packing), or \$1.24 per pound; dyes, not otherwise specified, for dyeing leather, 0.18 peso gold per kilo gross weight, or \$0.03 per pound.

[Lists of knitting mills, cloth mills, the principal shoe factories, and the large general importers in Chile may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81669.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guyana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany...	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Tendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Sprahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay...	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Automobiles -----	23046, 23053	Motorcycles -----	23046, 23053
Condensed milk -----	23057	Motors -----	23046
Cretonne -----	23047	Nails and tacks -----	23056
Curtain materials -----	23047	Needles, knitting machine -----	23050
Fly traps -----	23051	Sewing machines -----	23053
Hose, fire -----	23052	Shoes -----	23055
Machinery, sugar mill -----	23049	Tools -----	23045
Metals (brass, steel, nickel) -----	23054	Umbrella materials -----	23048

23045.*—A firm in Central America is in the market for tools, such as wood chisels, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 2 in., varying by $\frac{1}{2}$ in., six dozen of each size; ax heads, 50 dozen, 4# and 4½# without handle; adzes, 5 in. face, 12 dozen. Correspondence in English. References.

23046.*—A firm in Holland desires to represent American manufacturers of motor cars, motors, and motorcycles. Reference. Correspondence in English.

23047.*—A firm in New Zealand is in the market for colored bordered curtain-ing, volle, marquisette, etc., and cretonne for chair covering.

23048.*—A firm in Spain desires to secure the agency for umbrella materials, such as frames, handles, ribs, and cloth and silk for covering. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23049.‡—An export house on the Pacific Coast is in receipt of an inquiry regarding a complete sugar mill for handling 12,000,000 pounds of sugar during a crop season, working 12 hours daily. Reference.

23050.‡—A manufacturers' agent in Brazil is in the market for knitting-machine needles. Requirements, about 100,000 needles. Interested manufacturers may communicate with representative in the United States. Reference.

23051.*—An official of one of the Governments in Latin America desires to receive catalogues and prices of glass fly traps. Correspondence in Spanish preferred.

23052.*—A firm in Norway desires to purchase 1,000 meters of rubber-lined, hemp-covered fire hose, consisting of 40 lengths of 25 meters each. The inside diameter of the hose should be 72 millimeters. Cable information is desired giving price, quality, size, and time of delivery. Reference.

23053.‡—The agent in Greece of an Illinois manufacturing company desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of automobiles, motorcycles, and sewing machines, etc.

23054.‡—The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a business man who wishes to purchase for export to Switzerland metals, much as brass, steel, nickel, and white metal in rods and sheets.

23055.†—Quotations are desired on large quantities of shoes costing not more than \$1.35 per pair, for shipment to Latin America.

23056.‡—A commission merchant in France is in the market for nails and tacks. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23057.†—A firm of exporters on the Pacific coast would like to be placed in communication with manufacturers of sweetened and unsweetened condensed skimmed milk. The firm states it can handle about 3,000 cases monthly of sweetened and about 2,000 cases monthly of unsweetened milk. It would be willing to introduce capital and form a private company for the manufacture of such milk.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 274 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, November 21

1916

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SWISS SUGAR IMPORTS.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 7; see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 24, May 9, July 26, and Oct. 30, 1916.]

Eleven thousand tons of Java sugar are on the high seas en route for Switzerland via Rotterdam. A part of the cargo will come by rail on German cars, while the rest will be shipped via the Rhine. This will be the first time, it is said, that the Rhine has been used during the war for the supply of Switzerland. Two shiploads of American sugar are at Nantes awaiting rolling stock for transportation to Switzerland. The existing sugar shortage in the country, it is stated, will not be overcome by these arrivals, as the preserving season is at hand and greater quantities than usual are required.

To a lack of rolling stock and not to a universal sugar shortage is the present serious condition of the Swiss sugar market attributed. The situation has now reached such a stage that the wholesale dealers of the country have petitioned the Government to introduce sugar cards. The people have been cautioned by the Government to economize in sugar. New regulations regarding the use of sugar in the manufacture of sweets and drinks have been also adopted to eliminate all possible waste.

[Switzerland's trade in American sugar is a development of the past year. In the twelvemonth ending June 30, 1915, but 110 pounds, valued at \$8, were shipped from the United States to Switzerland, and none at all in the four fiscal years immediately preceding. In the six months ending Dec. 31, 1915, however, the American customs records show exports to Switzerland of 17,365,530 pounds of refined sugar, valued at \$627,021; in the six months ending June 30, 1916, shipments totaling 19,425,700 pounds, valued at \$1,008,697; making the exports for the fiscal year 1915-16 36,791,230 pounds, valued at \$1,635,718. In July, 1916, the exports amounted to 560,000 pounds, valued at \$35,276; in August, 1916, to 1,680,000 pounds, value \$107,521; but none went forward in September of this year.]

The National Association of Fisheries Commissioners has designated Friday, November 24, as national fisheries day, with the particular purpose of educating the public in matters relating to fish and the fisheries. One proposed feature of the observance is the dissemination of appropriate information through the schools.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCE MARKET DULL.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Oct. 11.]

There is nothing of particular note to state in connection with the present condition of the Port Elizabeth market for ostrich feathers, wool, mohair, hides, and skins. There is a fair demand for all this produce except ostrich feathers. Except for the first-mentioned, prices are too high, according to the ideas of most purchasers. At the same time there appears to be little prospect of lower prices for the near future.

Direct shipments from here to America have been fewer in number for the last two or three months, but this would naturally be so because of the close of the wool season. The new clips are commencing to arrive with comparative frequency, but consist largely up to the present of inferior lines. There is a strong demand for well-grown wools, and the few lines that have arrived have been sold at high prices. Inferior wools are marketable at comparatively low figures. Short, seedy wools are not salable except at very low figures.

In mohair, a fair amount of business has been done in winter hair, selling up to 33.5 cents a pound, and in winter kids up to 36 cents. Sometimes sales in Basuto hair are reported at 30 and 31 cents a pound. There have been no transactions or quotations in connection with summer hair.

For the last two or three weeks the ostrich-feather market has been dull, and at present there are no signs of increasing demands. For the week ending September 25, 2,528 pounds of feathers were sold for \$9,500; for the week ending October 2, 2,480 pounds were sold for \$12,500; for the week ending October 9, 4,618 pounds were sold for \$16,780.

There is a good demand for all classes of hides and skins, and high prices continue to prevail.

CANAL TRAFFIC IN SEPTEMBER.

[Panama Canal Record, Nov. 1.]

The cargo carried through the Panama Canal in the month of September, 1916, amounting to 662,170 tons, was the greatest that has passed through since the reopening of the Canal and has been exceeded but once since the opening of the Canal in 1914. In July of 1915 the number of tons of cargo which passed through was 705,469.

The number of ships passing through the Canal in seagoing or commercial service was 154. This number has been exceeded but twice—in July and August of 1915—when the numbers were 170 and 161, respectively. Of the 154 ships making the transit of the Canal during September, 1916, 77 were British, 37 American, 10 Norwegian, 7 Peruvian, 6 Chilean, 5 Japanese, and 4 Dutch. Sixty-nine of them were bound from the Atlantic to the Pacific and 85 from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

The tolls earned in September amounted to \$498,603. Of this amount \$200,672 was for ships passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific and \$292,931 for ships from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

DUTCH DEVICE AIMS AT FUEL ECONOMY.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 31.]

The difficulty since the war began of obtaining adequate supplies of coal for industrial uses in the Netherlands has led to various investigations and suggestions for the relief of the situation. A Dutch technical periodical describes a device for economizing fuel by getting all the coke and the unconsumed pieces of coal out of the ashes or refuse from a furnace and using them again. In many instances it has been found that more than 20 per cent, sometimes as high as 75 per cent, of furnace refuse consists of combustible material. The practice has been to pick this out by hand, but the results were not satisfactory.

Process Sifts Out Combustible Remnants.

By the device described furnace refuse is ground and put through sieves, which separate it into parts of four different sizes. Each part is put into a separate basin containing a liquid with a specific gravity somewhat more than that of water, in which it is briskly stirred about. This liquid is said to be very cheap and easy to make, and to be generally a refuse product of factories. The stirring and revolving of the particles in the liquid bring the lighter, which are the combustible remnants, to the surface, while the heavier or unusable parts sink. The combustible remnants, therefore, need only to be scooped out, and when dried, it is claimed, make good fuel. It is stated that, in general, 2,000 tons of furnace refuse will yield 38 tons of fuel of good quality, besides much of an inferior quality. The refuse left from the sieving process can be used in making a fine grade of beton, it is averred.

The cost of installing this device would be too much for a small factory, but it has been suggested that an establishment might be erected and the refuse from factories within a given district be collected and treated there, so that all the associated factories would be able to operate their furnaces very cheaply.

GRAIN ELEVATORS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy has forwarded a copy of the contract entered into by the State of South Australia and a Montreal firm, whereby the latter is engaged to prepare plans and specifications for and supervise the erection of elevators for the bulk handling of grain. (This is the same firm that was engaged by the State of New South Wales to draw plans for a terminal elevator at Sydney; see COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 17, 1916. For other articles on the general subject of the bulk handling of grain in Australia see the issues for Nov. 11, 1913, Aug. 21 and 25, 1915, and Feb. 2, Oct. 7, and Nov. 13, 1916.) A printed copy of the document can be examined by those interested upon application at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 1986. This agreement has special reference to the engineering work on the grain-handling scheme; it does not provide for the erection of the elevators.

DANISH BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR.

[American Minister Maurice Francis Egan, Copenhagen, Oct. 3.]

At the meeting of the Folketing to-day the Minister of Finance placed before the House the financial budget for 1917-18. The current receipts for that year are estimated at \$43,733,000 (the Danish crown has been converted to United States gold at the normal rate of \$0.268) and the current expenses at \$32,160,000. As was done last year, an extra budget will be introduced separately. The sum of \$10,000,000 has been reserved to pay off debts and interests on loans. The experience of the present fiscal year has made it possible to estimate the receipts from certain sources considerably higher than formerly. The returns from the ordinary income tax have, for instance, been estimated 60 per cent greater. Several other sources of income, including several Government institutions, have experienced a corresponding increase.

In marked contrast, however, is the status of the extraordinary income tax. While it has been possible during the present fiscal year to obtain \$8,000,000 by means of this tax, the estimate for the coming year, as appearing in the budget, amounts to but \$1,340,000. This is accounted for by the fact that the law governing the extraordinary income tax holds good during the present fiscal year only. However, the prospects for the extension of this law include the fiscal year 1917-18 are favorable. Taxes and dues constitute the chief source of income, and are estimated at \$38,243.60.

The comment of the Minister of Finance on the extra budget—to be introduced some time in the future—indicates that the sum which will be required to cover the extraordinary expenditures necessitated by the war amounts to nearly \$27,000,000. When both budgets are considered the finances for the fiscal year 1917-18 show a deficit of some \$13,000,000; and if to this is added \$11,000,000, the deficit for the fiscal year 1916-17, the total approaches \$25,000,000.

The national debt of Denmark will, by the end of the fiscal year 1917-18, amount to \$129,248,000, of which sum \$70,078,500 is due foreign countries.

GUATEMALA REVIVES FEAST OF MINERVA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 6.]

All Guatemala has just been celebrating the Feast of Minerva, the most elaborate observance in its calendar. The revival of this feast, educational and patriotic in its motives, is the idea of the present President, Señor don Estrada Cabrera. Like its Roman precursor, it marks the close of the school year, and prizes are awarded for excellence in scholarship. One of the prizes—\$100 gold and a trip to the United States—was given by an American company for the best essay written in English.

Ceremonies intended to inculcate love of country and devotion to duty form part of the celebration. There is also an exhibition of the products of the Republic held in connection with the annual event. Of the exhibits this year, coffee, sugar, and sugar cane deserve special mention. American-made plows and disk plows specially adapted to sugar-cane cultivation were on display.

ACTIVITIES OF THE HUDDERSFIELD TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Oct. 27.]

The Huddersfield Technical College is a large institution, and has for years been doing important work. The time has come, however, when further development is necessary, and additional land adjoining the present property has been secured for the ultimate purpose. There can be no construction at present of any building to cost more than £500, approximately \$2,500, without permission of the Government Minister of Munitions as well as the local authorities, and this can not be obtained at present. It is intended to expend about £50,000 (\$240,000) in extensions and equipment. The departments especially needing new and greater facilities for instruction and research and experimental work are the textile, in all its varied lines of dyeing, designing, weaving, etc., and that which has to do with a wide research into the field of all coal-tar products, chemicals, dyes, etc. This research work has to be given every possible advantage, in view of the future needs of the textile industry of this country. Another feature of the growing work of the college this year is that of instruction in foreign languages. Besides the usual classes in French there is a much larger class studying Spanish, while over 50 students are taking up Russian. Before this year there have been but few young men taking up this language. It is an indication that much is hoped for in a greater commercial intercourse, after the war, between England and Russia.

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF CANADIAN EGGS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Nov. 7.]

New Brunswick, like other parts of eastern Canada, is not at present producing sufficient quantities of poultry and eggs for its own consumption. Authorities are quoted as stating that an unprecedented demand for eggs and poultry exists throughout Canada as well as in other countries. The per capita consumption of eggs in Canada this year will be greater than ever before. A shortage is reported in current receipts, and storage supplies also are reduced. The selling price is from 40 to 60 per cent higher than two years ago, when Canada was importing considerable quantities. During the past 12 months Canadian production has sufficed for local consumption. Last year more than 7,000,000 dozen eggs were exported to Great Britain.

For the 12 months ended March 31, 1916, Canada exported eggs worth \$2,705,416, compared with \$1,206,518 worth the preceding year and only \$92,322 in 1914. Of these values, \$432,004 in 1916, \$240,878 in 1915, and only \$92,322 in 1914 represented foreign eggs shipped from Canada but produced in the United States. For the first two of the periods mentioned most of Canada's egg exports went to the United Kingdom, the values of such exports being \$2,618,871 and \$1,016,796, respectively, for the fiscal years ended March 31, 1916 and 1915.

SPAIN PLANS FINANCIAL REORGANIZATION.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 4.]

Spanish royal orders now made public authorize the Minister of Finance to withdraw the proposed budget for 1917, presented in June last [see COMMERCE REPORTS for July 19, 1916], and to submit a new one to the Cortes. Further authorization is given for the introduction of bills to reconstruct the national financial system, such as to modify and extend the privileges of the bank of Spain; to make a new contract for the tobacco monopoly; to suppress the monopoly for the manufacture and sale of explosives and establish a tax thereon; to create a monopoly for the sale of denatured alcohol; to exempt enterprises operating in Spain from the payment of royal taxes and stamps for placing their securities in Spain; to modify various taxes; to establish a tax on the unearned increment of real estate; to concede certain benefits to new industries that may be started in Spain and to such industries already existing as may be enlarged; to create a National Agricultural Bank of Spain, and also a Spanish Bank of Foreign Commerce; to permit the Government to lease the manufacture and sale of wax and other matches; and to lease the rights for the production of quicksilver in the mines of Almaden.

Besides the foregoing, other royal orders sanction the presentation of several additional bills affecting the finances of the country.

Provisions of the New Budget.

The new budget submitted for 1917 makes the following provisions (the 1916 figures being also shown for comparison):

Receipts.	Probable in 1916.	Appropriation for 1917.	Expenditures.	Credits authorized in 1916.	Credits solicited for 1917.
Direct taxes.....	\$91,504,976	\$95,451,832	Public debt and Crown expenses....	\$92,442,041	\$98,989,835
Indirect taxes.....	65,914,747	85,481,100	Expenses of the Ministries.....	144,739,632	139,678,310
Monopolies.....	57,186,356	50,376,600			
Other.....	10,206,037	15,536,881			
Total.....	224,812,116	255,846,433	Total.....	237,181,673	238,668,145

This budget provides for a surplus of receipts over expenditures of \$17,178,288. Appropriations are reduced in all departments of the Government, except in the Ministry of Public Instruction and the Ecclesiastical Obligations of the Ministry of Justice, which two items are augmented. The greatest reduction in expenditures is that for military and other action in Spanish Morocco, which is cut down by \$2,630,723 compared with the 1916 appropriation. The appropriation for the Ministry of War is reduced by \$1,116,221, and that of the Treasury for collecting revenues by \$869,977.

The chief increase in the receipts expected to result from the financial reorganization is under the heading of indirect taxation, but larger revenues are also anticipated from other sources.

Second, or Extraordinary, Budget to be Submitted.

A summary has been published of the liquidation of the budget of 1915, the situation of the Treasury on December 31, 1915, the extraordinary appropriations of 1914 and 1915, and a statement showing

how the outlays exceeded the appropriations in 1914 and 1915. Based on conclusions drawn from these figures a second or extraordinary budget is submitted to the Cortes of appropriations for national reconstruction covering a period of 10 years. The appropriations for 1917 amount to \$52,443,821. It is planned to meet the expenditures in part by the surplus provided for in the new budget and to raise a loan for the remainder during the first two years. Then with development of the Government's resources in the future it is expected that after the year 1922 there will be a surplus sufficient to cover these appropriations, as well as to reduce the debt incurred during the first years the new plan is in force. The totals of the extraordinary budget gradually decrease after 1918 until the appropriations for 1926 amount to \$19,355,263.

The extraordinary budget for 1917 includes \$28,176,511 for public works, \$11,476,487 for the Navy, and \$6,707,348 for the Army.

LIST OF RADIO STATIONS OF UNITED STATES FOR 1916.

"Radio Stations of the United States, Edition of July 1, 1916," has been issued by the Radio Service of the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce. Copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 15 cents each. The book contains 178 printed pages besides blank pages for additions, and presents the following information:

- Land radio stations, alphabetically by names of stations.
- Ship radio stations, alphabetically by names of vessels.
- Land and ship stations, alphabetically by call signals.
- Special land stations, alphabetically by names.
- Special land stations grouped by districts.
- Amateur stations, grouped by districts, with names of owners, locations, and power, arranged alphabetically by names of owners and also alphabetically by call signals.
- Statement regarding transmission of time signals and hydrographic information by naval radio stations.
- Transmission of weather reports by naval radio stations.
- International Morse code and conventional signals.
- List of abbreviations to be used in radio communication.

There are nine districts throughout the country, with headquarters at Boston, Mass.; New York, N. Y.; Baltimore, Md.; Savannah, Ga.; New Orleans, La.; San Francisco, Cal.; Seattle, Wash.; Detroit, Mich.; and Chicago, Ill.

LIGHTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION IN SPAIN.

[Consul Ely E. Palmer, Madrid, Oct. 20.]

The Gaceta de Madrid, official organ of the Spanish Government, announces under date of October 17, 1916, that bids will be received from Spanish or foreign bidders until January 2, 1917, by the Seccion de Senales Maritimas, calle de Alcala 100, Madrid, Spain, for furnishing the pedestal and the revolving and optical apparatus for the lighthouse at Cape Nao (el Cabo de la Nao), in the Province of Alicante. Instructions to bidders, together with drawings, may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 81977.

AGRICULTURAL-MACHINERY SITUATION IN RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Nov. 13.]

The question of supply of agricultural machinery and implements in Russia has been much commented upon of late in the press. The war and the attendant shortage of labor have greatly accentuated the situation, and there is plenty of evidence forthcoming of the determination of the interests concerned to make better provision for the future. With the active cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture, certain leading zemstvo unions, supported by a powerful financial institution in Moscow, have formed a central board to organize the purchase and distribution of agricultural machinery and implements in the regions represented. According to a recent statement in the official gazette for trade and industry, purchases for a portion of the requirements of these territories for 1917 have already been concluded on a large scale. The following quantities of machines are stated to have been ordered: Lobogreikas (Russian reapers), 20,000; reapers, 14,000; binders, 500; mowers, 10,000; rakes, 5,000; reaping attachments, 500; grinders for reaper and mower sections, 3,000.

A leading Canadian firm secured orders for 3,000 reapers and 500 binders. American interests were allotted 9,000 reapers, 8,000 mowers, 3,000 rakes, and 3,000 grinders for mower knives, and 500 reaping attachments. The total requirements for 1917 of the territories represented by the zemstvo unions referred to are estimated at 96,800 machines, which include 45,000 reapers of foreign manufacture, 26,000 Russian lobogreikas, 15,000 mowers, 9,000 horse rakes, and 1,800 binders. From the foregoing some idea of the total needs of Russia in these articles may be imagined. Siberia as a potential market is also to be taken into consideration. There the need for agricultural machinery is even more pressing than in many parts of Russia proper, owing to the relatively sparse population and to the shortage of labor.

SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPORTS CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

[Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town, Oct. 10.]

Imports into the Union of South Africa for the nine months ending September 30, 1916, were 40 per cent greater in value than during the like period of 1915; for the single month of September the gain was 30 per cent. The greatest growth in import business was at Durban, where the gain for September was \$2,004,321, or 40 per cent, and for the nine months \$30,028,409, or 60 per cent. The value of the merchandise received at the several ports was:

Ports.	Month of September—		9 months ending Sept. 30—	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
Cape Town.....	\$3,038,068	\$4,077,962	\$24,364,673	\$31,001,883
Port Elizabeth.....	4,209,518	4,491,509	24,505,379	34,548,799
East London.....	1,438,572	2,002,117	10,075,817	13,536,569
Durban.....	4,910,581	6,914,902	33,243,918	53,272,327
Lourenço Marques.....	1,340,580	1,062,859	10,179,488	9,972,585
Other ports and stations.....	75,918	232,504	1,112,551	2,590,005
Total.....	15,013,237	19,382,033	104,071,826	146,612,098

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

[Extract from *The Economist* (London, England), Oct. 14, supplemented with British official statistics.]

Some rather remarkable developments have occurred in the cotton industry of Lancashire during the past three months. In the first place, a feature of considerable interest has been the big rise in raw-cotton rates, which has been followed by an increased business in both yarn and cloth. On July 3 middling American cotton, on the spot, in Liverpool, was at 8.03d. At the beginning of August an upward movement in prices occurred and by the 9th the rate had advanced to 8.71d. and on the 31st stood at 9.47d. On September 1 the quotation was 9.90d. There was then a rather easier tendency, 9.47d. being the quotation on September 13, and the month closed with the price at 9.50d. Since then still higher values have been experienced, and on Wednesday last the quotation was 10.27d., the rise on the three months being over 2d. a pound. It is generally believed that the output for this season will be comparatively small, and most people are not looking for much more than 12,000,000 bales. The consumption is expected to be large, and estimates range from 14,500,000 to 15,000,000 bales.

Considerable excitement has recently been seen in the Egyptian cotton market. On July 3, fully good fair brown was at 11.67d., and the quotation at the end of that month was 11.80d. Toward the end of August an upward movement set in, and on the 31st the price was 12.90d. During September violent fluctuations occurred, but fresh high levels were reached, resulting in 14.10d. being quoted on the 30th. The upward movement continues, the rate on Wednesday last being 16.30d. While at one time there was a possibility of an outturn of over 7,000,000 cantars (cantar = 99.05 pounds), it is now believed in some directions that the crop will be less than 6,000,000 cantars.

Nine Months' Shipments of Piece Goods.

The hardening of prices in all kinds of cotton cloths has forced out a much larger demand, and for several outlets an increasing business has been done. A feature of the moment is the activity in bleached, printed, and dyed goods, while gray cloths remain depressed. The following table of British shipments for the nine months ending September 30 bears out this aspect of the trade:

Cotton piece goods.	January-September—		
	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>
Gray or unbleached.....	1,646,999,500	1,313,928,500	1,053,661,500
Bleached.....	1,416,220,300	1,144,305,700	1,409,436,400
Printed.....	791,905,900	512,959,200	667,324,300
Dyed or manufactured from dyed yarn.....	927,344,800	687,434,500	868,992,300
Total.....	4,782,461,500	3,658,525,900	4,029,414,500

The slow demand for gray staples, such as shirtings, is put down to the shortage of dyes abroad. The destinations of the exports of cotton piece goods from the United Kingdom during the first nine

months of the current year and for the like period of 1915 and 1914 are thus officially given:

Exported to—	January–September—		
	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>
Belgium.....	20,198,700	13,100	49,300
Denmark.....	14,567,300	25,635,800	38,801,500
France.....	10,852,100	188,006,400	104,428,100
Germany.....	42,146,800		
Greece.....	39,956,800	38,687,900	15,303,100
Italy.....	8,684,400	6,341,400	9,652,500
Netherlands.....	49,666,200	40,039,000	61,207,100
Portugal, Azores, and Madeira.....	15,399,300	14,662,300	20,656,000
Roumania.....	30,141,400	6,858,900	
Switzerland.....	45,585,900	52,558,100	54,526,100
Turkey.....	269,967,200	6,148,700	11,930,200
Canada.....	57,246,400	50,101,300	58,287,100
United States.....	45,971,000	34,640,800	48,226,500
Cuba.....	31,597,100	37,080,800	37,171,100
Central America.....	25,884,800	13,859,900	18,037,900
British West Indies (including Bahamas) and British Gulana.....	30,978,000	28,525,100	21,267,600
Argentina.....	79,469,500	79,888,000	156,648,300
Brazil.....	28,255,800	26,615,100	50,198,200
Chile.....	32,669,900	18,065,100	58,128,600
Colombia and Panama.....	32,128,100	35,512,700	42,113,900
Peru.....	17,292,800	7,825,000	10,897,500
Uruguay.....	11,587,800	10,816,200	24,963,700
Venezuela.....	23,432,400	20,923,000	29,729,900
British India:			
Bengal, Assam, Bihar, and Orissa.....	1,101,482,300	848,626,300	799,584,800
Bombay.....	772,954,000	489,037,500	543,291,900
Burma.....	78,545,300	55,715,400	64,564,100
Madras.....	148,596,000	80,697,300	71,900,500
Persia.....	35,068,400	38,802,100	22,475,300
Ceylon.....	33,354,900	16,992,600	14,873,000
Dutch East Indies.....	219,068,400	184,498,300	176,570,700
Philippine Islands and Guam.....	7,793,900	6,029,500	4,744,000
China (including Hongkong).....	518,376,100	284,245,800	306,059,000
Japan.....	21,304,000	15,534,800	13,122,600
Siam.....	26,402,800	17,696,100	23,929,600
Straits Settlements (including Federated Malay States and Labuan).....	77,701,400	66,220,600	85,954,600
Egypt.....	180,288,200	182,613,300	213,106,400
Morocco.....	45,917,800	68,265,800	60,999,300
British East Africa.....	9,059,400	9,700,900	18,087,100
Foreign East Africa.....	23,396,600	15,022,100	13,219,000
British South Africa.....	48,458,500	63,985,000	88,138,300
British West Africa.....	105,378,900	103,806,100	95,830,700
Foreign West Africa.....	48,321,000	28,824,400	59,580,700
Australia.....	141,698,000	147,962,800	177,348,800
New Zealand.....	30,043,800	35,121,700	54,690,300
All other countries.....	145,571,100	156,922,900	240,119,000
Total.....	4,782,461,500	3,668,525,900	4,029,414,500

* Exported to ports or places in territory formerly Turkish, but now occupied by other Powers.

Activity in Spinning Section.

With regard to the position in Lancashire, it has been a very active three months for calico printers, bleachers, and dyers, and the higher prices for these processes have not checked trade. It is worth mentioning that producers of the better styles of cloth have met with a larger business than makers of the lower-quality materials. At the beginning of July most spinners of yarn were doing well, but during the three months since then additional strength has been obtained, and producers have put up their quotations very firmly to meet the additional cost in the raw material. In American qualities for home use an encouraging business has been done. Fine numbers are very strong, and have recently improved their position owing to the rise in Egyptian qualities.

The demand for yarns from abroad has been rather disappointing. For India dyed descriptions have moved off fairly well, but in gray sorts business has dragged. A fair amount of buying continues to take place for Holland. The following table gives particulars of British yarn shipments during January-September of the last three years:

Exported to—	January-September—		
	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Belgium.....	2,655,600		
Bulgaria.....	4,539,100	707,100	
Denmark.....	2,762,800	2,602,900	4,719,600
France.....	2,878,200	30,722,100	22,434,300
Germany.....	32,401,300		
Netherlands.....	31,428,400	42,013,100	52,452,600
Norway.....	1,916,900	3,030,900	3,800,100
Roumania.....	6,463,300	1,363,800	
Russia.....	1,040,600	1,030,900	1,973,900
Sweden.....	1,077,600	2,035,800	1,723,800
Switzerland.....	5,165,600	9,289,200	4,506,200
Turkey.....	5,877,900	282,100	114,700
Canada.....	1,798,800	1,509,700	2,226,200
United States.....	4,588,300	4,427,900	6,237,800
Argentina.....	596,400	1,040,100	1,018,500
British India:			
Bengal, Assam, Bihar, and Orissa.....	7,303,400	6,586,100	4,568,500
Bombay.....	12,771,900	13,557,900	7,632,400
Burma.....	2,011,100	852,400	948,100
Madras.....	9,303,000	8,735,900	8,258,000
China (including Hongkong).....	1,426,200	637,200	226,200
Straits Settlements (including Federated Malay States and Labuan).....	1,043,000	804,100	636,600
Egypt (including Anglo-Egyptian Sudan).....	1,469,200	1,490,700	984,800
All other countries.....	12,476,800	12,416,700	10,632,600
Total.....	150,965,400	145,136,600	125,043,900

* Exported to ports or places in territory formerly Turkish but now occupied by other Powers.

It is extremely difficult to anticipate the probable course of trade in the future. It may be said, however, that business in most sections is on a more profitable basis than at any time since the beginning of the war. With reference to cloth most of Great Britain's outlets abroad are by no means oversupplied, and we may reasonably expect steady buying. Spinners of yarn seem to be assured of a remunerative trade, at any rate until the end of the war. The scarcity of supplies in the raw material is a very serious matter, but it is of interest to point out that shippers and manufacturers have experienced a healthier demand on the basis of American cotton at 9.50d. than when the article was around 8d. a pound.

GIVES BUREAU CREDIT FOR FOREIGN-TRADE RESULTS.

A firm at Chicago, Ill., states that it has found the Foreign Trade Opportunity Service of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce extremely valuable in extending its commercial relations. The firm's export manager informs the commercial agent in charge of the bureau's district office at Chicago that its export business was practically doubled during the past year, and that of a total of \$120,000 worth of annual business done in foreign fields, 75 per cent should be credited to the Foreign Trade Opportunities of this bureau.

TECHNICAL LIBRARY TO AID GERMAN INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul H. E. Carlson, Frankfort on Main, Oct. 28.]

According to a recent article in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* and an interview with a prominent librarian at Frankfort plans are being considered for the establishment of a general technical library at Frankfort on Main, to be open for public use. One of the leading city libraries has become interested in the project, and a beginning already has been made. It is said that the plan is unique among the cities of the German Empire.

For Benefit of Important Industrial Center.

A demand exists for a library which will be of service to all the numerous branches of industry and trade in and about Frankfort, the most important industrial center in south and west Germany. In this manner a broader spirit of scientific and technical investigation will be fostered. An attempt will be made to furnish technical information which will have a historical as well as purely scientific value.

Technical libraries have existed previously, but they have not been open to the general public. Such libraries have been the property of scientific societies, technical associations, and the larger industrial concerns. The service rendered by these scattered collections was comparatively small, as it was limited to members of the respective organizations owning them. These were usually hampered by lack of means and lack of facilities for organizing and arranging to the best advantage.

The plan that is now under way would combine these private and semiprivate libraries and put them under the control of one of the established city libraries at Frankfort on Main. The library chosen for this purpose is the *Freiherrliche Carl von Rothschildsche Öffentliche Bibliothek*.

Patent Publications to be Made Special Feature.

In addition to technical books it is stated that the chief technical magazines of Germany and of the technical world are to be placed at the disposal of the public. A special feature will be the department for patent publications. Not only will the important German patent publications be provided for the library, but an attempt will be made also to furnish as broad an international list as possible. The *American Official Gazette* is among those to be obtained.

It is proposed that arrangements be made to cooperate with the patent office at Berlin, with the intention of simplifying the present regulations as to the examination of drawings and models. The plan has the support of the chief technical societies of Frankfort, including *Der Frankfurter Verein Deutscher Ingenieure* and *Der Frankfurter Verband Deutscher Diplom Ingenieure*.

Chile Imports Japanese Rice.

A Japanese steamer recently landed 18,000 bags of rice in Valparaiso, Chile. It is understood, reports Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, that a stock will be carried for the purpose of normalizing the rice market there.

MOTOR TRUCKS USED ON PRIMARY TRIANGULATION.

In recent surveying work in the Northwest by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, automobile trucks were used for the first time on primary triangulation, and they proved so successful that all other surveying parties engaged on such work will use this means of communication. The party representing the survey completed the observing on an arc of primary triangulation which extends 630 miles from northern Utah northwestward to the Columbia River in north-eastern Oregon, thence westward down the Columbia River to Portland, Oreg. Most of the observations were made at night by the use of acetylene lamps. In spite of the rugged country over which the work was carried, there were no serious accidents to the members of the party in either of the two seasons during which observations were made.

Concrete Blocks Bear Inscribed Tablets.

The latitudes and longitudes of about 100 stations were accurately determined and, as they have been substantially monumented with concrete blocks which bear inscribed metal tablets, they will be available for generations as starting points of Federal, State, boundary and other surveys and engineering works. As soon as the office computations can be made at the Washington headquarters of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the data for this survey will be published in order that they may be more readily available to those needing them.

The motor trucks carried the party and outfit to the base of the peaks on which observations were made with the theodolite. The camp equipage and instruments were carried from the truck to the top of the peak by horses or by the members of the party. Accurate elevations of numerous mountain peaks were determined by this survey. In fact, it is only by such methods as were employed that reliable elevations of peaks can be obtained. It is not feasible to run lines of spirit levels up the mountain sides and barometric leveling gives only crude results. The longest distance observed was 134 miles, between a peak in northern Utah and a second peak in southern Idaho. The lamps were cared for by trained light keepers.

NATIVE CHINESE BANK ADOPTS ADVANCED METHODS.

[John R. Arnold, in charge of office of commercial attaché, Peking, Sept. 15.]

A recently established native bank in Shanghai has made the new departure, for a Chinese banking institution, of issuing half-yearly reports prepared in foreign style and having them audited by a firm of British accountants. The bank is a small one, but is paying dividends at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.

In the past it has been largely the lack of such statements on the part of native banks, or of any safeguards in the way of auditing, that has prevented even the larger native institutions from taking any considerable part in the financing of foreign trade. If the precedent now set is followed, it may mean the beginning of a process whereby the Chinese banks, like the great Japanese institutions, will begin to take part in the financial operations of the world at large.

NEW AMERICAN GOODS FOR CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Oct. 21.]

The past quarter has shown an encouraging broadening of the classes of American merchandise brought into the Canary Islands. In July a general agency for a well-known American bunker coal was established here, and now a large display advertisement daily calls attention to the advantages offered by this fuel. Shipments of American coal to the port of Tenerife during the first nine months of 1916 have approximated 12,000 tons, as against none for the like period of last year, and 4,000 tons of gas coal have been sold directly through consular activities. [See **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 17, 1916.]

Other new business for the quarter included orders for 57 tons of box-shook nails, eight cases American toopicks, trial orders for three different brands of American flour, 2 tons of canned vegetables and jams, and the first shipment of children's ready-made dresses and rompers ever brought to the Canary Islands. The usefulness to American firms of the Commercial Bulletin, published quarterly by the Tenerife consulate, was shown by the recent selection of a local agent for an American perfume company through correspondence brought about by a note in the April Bulletin. Catalogues filed in the reading room of the consulate paved the way for the introduction here of American-made incubators and led to the placing of a large order for scales, padlocks, and kitchen utensils.

PROFITABLENESS OF DUTCH AGRICULTURE.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 28.]

That farming in the Netherlands has been profitable since the war began is shown by official statistics just published relating to rural financial matters. For example, the deposits of the largest cooperative rural bank in the country increased 60 per cent in 1915 as compared with 1914. On the other hand, the total of the loans in 1915 decreased more than 60 per cent in comparison with 1914. The total value of mortgages on farms in this country in 1906 was 46,000,000 florins (\$18,492,000). By gradual increases it advanced to 62,000,000 florins (\$24,924,000) in 1913; but in 1914 the total was 4,000,000 florins less than in 1913, and in 1915 18,000,000 florins less than in 1914. Thus the total in 1915 was 40,000,000 florins, being less than in 1906.

Nobody in the Netherlands is more independent to-day than the farmer. He does not have to seek a market for his products, but can usually take his pick of the various pressing demands therefor.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DATTON: Greater Dayton Association.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn., until Dec. 17.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany....	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Tendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay....	Dec. 1	Do.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark...	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN FINLAND.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 19.]

According to the Pravitelstvennei Vyestnik (Petrograd) of August 25, a large electrical project is being undertaken in southern Esterbothnia, Finland, in which 3 towns and 28 rural districts are concerned. It is intended to form a company for carrying out the project. The plans include setting up four stations for generating electrical power (at Sturo, Ilistaro, Kurikka, and Alavu) and absorbing all the small electrical undertakings at present existing in those districts. In the region covered by the operations of the proposed company there are many waterfalls and extensive peat deposits, which will make it possible to generate power at a moderate price.

URUGUAY TO STIMULATE RAISING OF FEEDSTUFFS.

In view of the scarcity of feedstuffs in Uruguay, the Government, in addition to authorizing their free importation during the present year, has undertaken an active campaign to increase the domestic production of oats and alfalfa. The Department of Industries, according to the Diario Oficial, has issued an order commissioning an agricultural expert to visit the farming regions of Uruguay to investigate the reasons for the failure of the feed crops, with a view to solving the difficulties encountered in this branch of farming. Improved methods of working these crops will be demonstrated, and steps will be taken to procure and distribute large quantities of selected oats and alfalfa seed.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Bags.....	23067	Machinery.....	23065
Chemicals.....	23063	Nails, wire.....	23064
Clocks.....	23064	Paints.....	23061-23063
Dairy appliances.....	23060	Paper, cardboard.....	23062
Drugs.....	23063	Paper, cigarette.....	23062
Electric fixtures.....	23064	Paper, printing.....	23064
Flash lights, pocket.....	23064	Pipes and fittings.....	23066
Glassware.....	23064	Refrigerators.....	23059
Hair, animal.....	23058	Rosin.....	23064
Handkerchiefs.....	23064	Stationery supplies.....	23064
Lamp black.....	23061	Umbrellas and umbrella cloth.....	23064

23058.*—A firm in Norway is in the market for goat's-hair. Correspondence in English. References.

23059.*—A man in South Africa desires to secure the agency for refrigerators suitable for hotels, dining cars, butcher shops, and dealers in perishable articles. Catalogues and complete descriptive information should be sent. References.

23060.*—A firm in Portugal is in the market for machinery and appliances used in the manufacture of butter and cheese. Correspondence in French or Portuguese. References.

23061.*—A hardware firm in Central America is in the market for dry water paints to be used on plaster and wood surfaces. Colors in demand in order of sales are canary yellow, blue, vermillion, green, pink, brown, and gray. The firm also desires to purchase lampblack. References.

23062.*—A manufacturers' agent in Switzerland desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of thin cardboard for packing purposes, such as is used in the tobacco industry. Samples are requested. Quotations should be per 100 kilos (220 pounds) f. o. b. New York. Cardboard should be equal to sample, which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81749.) Rosin The same agent is also interested in cigarette paper.

23063.†—A commission firm on the Pacific coast has inquiries from Russia for paints, drugs, and chemicals. References.

23064.‡—A firm in the Far East desires to enter into commercial relations with American exporters of rosin, handkerchiefs, umbrellas and umbrella cloth, glassware, chandeliers and other electric fixtures and fittings for use in dwellings, pocket flash lights, clocks, printing paper, stationery supplies, and wire nails, etc.

23065.‡—A man in Ecuador wishes to communicate with manufacturers of machinery for the extraction of quinine from cinchona bark.

23066.*—A firm in the United Kingdom desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers in a position to supply wrought iron and steel pipes and fittings for water and gas service. References.

23067.*—The purchasing agent for a fertilizer company in Spain desires to receive quotations on from 100,000 to 500,000 new and second-hand sacks for acid phosphate, sizes 110.23 pounds (50 kilos), 165.35 pounds (75 kilos), and 220.46 pounds (100 kilos). Samples showing weight and quality should be sent. If price is satisfactory order may be placed for 1,000,000 sacks, it is stated. Correspondence in English. References.

A light list for the lower Mississippi River and tributaries, covering the fifteenth district, has been issued by the United States Lighthouse Service. A copy may be obtained by any master or pilot on application to the Division of Publications, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., or to the lighthouse inspector at St. Louis, Mo.

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 275 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 22 1916

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MANCHURIAN BEAN CROP.

[Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, China, Oct. 19.]

The forecast of the bean harvest in Manchuria for 1916 varies in the several districts, but the aggregate is expected to exceed that of last year by about 15 per cent. The crop of the Liao River region, which is marketed at Newchwang in South Manchuria, is said to exceed the previous year's production by 50 per cent. The increase is due to the absence in 1916 of the usual floods.

One of the largest Japanese firms, with an important bean trade throughout Manchuria, states that 1,910,000 tons can be exported from all Manchuria this year; 450,000 tons from the districts adjacent to Harbin and the Chinese Eastern Railway; 400,000 tons from the Changchun-Kungchuli district; 470,000 tons from the Kaiyuan-Teiling region; 80,000 tons from the Liaoliang-Mukden country; and 510,000 tons from the Newchwang district.

EXPORTS OF RUBBER FROM JAVA.

[Consul B. S. Rairden, Batavia, Dutch East Indies.]

The shipments of the different kinds of rubber from Java during the first eight months of 1916 amounted to 261,544 pounds compared with 220,972 pounds for the corresponding period in 1915. Great Britain took the larger portion, followed by the United States. The following table shows the exports of the different grades of rubber with the country of destination:

Countries.	Jan.-Aug., 1915.					Jan.-Aug., 1916.				
	Ficus.	Hevea.	Ceara.	Castil- loa.	Total.	Ficus.	Hevea.	Ceara.	Castil- loa.	Total.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
United States.....		5,199	8,692		13,891	33,031	10,879	11,114	17,536	72,560
Netherlands.....	29,262	1,786	16,733	13,779	61,560		224			224
Great Britain.....	40,121	3,199	19,378	68,350	131,048	28,004	4,068	54,703	43,010	130,385
Straits Settlements.....	13,171	447			13,618	26,169	2,673	21,712	3,465	54,019
Japan.....		213			213		53			53
Other countries.....	543	99			642	3,791	512			4,303
Total.....	83,097	10,943	44,803	82,129	220,972	90,995	19,009	87,529	64,011	261,544

WEST INDIES MARKET FOR AMERICAN RAILWAY SUPPLIES.

[Consul Andrew J. McConnico, Trinidad, Oct. 31.]

The Governor of the colony of Trinidad and Tobago, British West Indies, at a meeting of the Legislative Council on October 20, 1916, submitted a report on the administration of the Government railway and offered a number of suggestions for the improvement of conditions. In his recommendations he urged: The reorganization of the superior staff; the doubling of the line between Port of Spain and St. Joseph, a distance of six miles; the running of cheap trains over the entire line one day each month, with a view of developing the public taste for travel; the introduction of rail motor coaches; the establishment of a new station; the introduction of through rates on goods, to include delivery of produce into stores at Port of Spain; the improvement of passenger coaches; the lighting of trains by electricity; the fitting of passenger rolling stock with vacuum brakes; the use of automatic couplings; the purchase of additional locomotives of a heavier type; oil fuel for locomotives, and the strengthening of bridges to accommodate the heavier engines.

Some Tracks Leased to Sugar Companies.

There are 122½ miles of single track of standard gauge, 56½ inches.

The Government operates 114½ miles and leases 8½ miles to sugar companies.

The original capital of the railway consisted of \$2,916,000 raised by debentures in 1873, 1878, 1880, and 1882. The expenditures from loans up to June 30, 1916, aggregated \$6,002,508, the net debt on that date being \$4,054,450. The revenue derived from the operation of the railway amounts to approximately \$607,500, and the annual expenditures are \$475,000, leaving a balance of about \$132,000. This is not sufficient to meet the annual charges for interest and sinking fund.

The traffic is handled on the absolute block system, and the movement of trains is controlled from Port of Spain by telephone and telegraph. During the 40 years the railway has been in existence only 17 passengers have lost their lives through train accidents out of a total of 37,000,000 carried.

To Buy New Locomotives at Once.

It is announced that some of the recommendations of the governor are to be put into execution at once, especially with reference to the purchase of two new locomotives. There are now 24 locomotives in use, 18 of which weigh from 29 to 31 tons, the others being of the smaller 20-ton type. The locomotive power is not sufficient to handle the traffic during the crop season while allowing a margin for repairs and breakdowns. "It is imperative," the governor says, "that at least two more locomotives should be purchased without delay."

The type of engine most recently designed for the railway weighs 40 tons. With a tender weighing 21 tons, it has a total weight of 61 tons. These engines, it is said, will be fitted with oil burners in order that an experiment may be made in the use of oil, which is produced in large quantities in the colony. In the event that oil fuel can be efficiently applied, a substantial economy will be effected by its use, for the present price of a ton of Welsh coal delivered in

Trinidad is about \$18, whereas a ton of oil fuel does not cost more than \$8.

It is quite likely that the two new locomotives will be of American manufacture. An American mechanical engineer is now conducting negotiations with the local Government with a view of placing an order for such locomotives as the Government demands. The local authorities may also look to the American market for other railway material necessary to carry out projects for the early improvement of the Government lines.

GUATEMALA'S COFFEE CROP NORMAL.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 7.]

With the completion of the gathering of half the crop of coffee for the 1916-17 season, an estimate of the total yield of Guatemala can now be made with reasonable certainty. The total production will be about 800,000 quintals of 100 Spanish pounds each, clean coffee. (There is practically no difference between the Spanish pound and the English pound; 98 Spanish pounds are equivalent to 100 English pounds.) The value of the crop will be between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000 gold. The yield and value for 1916-17 are practically the same as in 1915-16. There was no increase in acreage. The quality is good and the average yield has been from 20 to 22 quintals per hectare (approximately 800 to 830 avoirdupois pounds per acre). The total area under coffee cultivation in Guatemala is about 40,000 hectares (98,800 acres).

The districts best suited for growing coffee are Antigua, Barberena, Costa Chuvá, Alta Verapaz, Costa Cuca, Costa Grande, Pochuta, and Tumbador. In some districts in Guatemala coffee is grown at an altitude of 5,000 feet. Coffee grown at this altitude is of very fine quality, but the production of the tree is extremely limited.

Germans own and control between 50 and 60 per cent of the coffee plantations of Guatemala; only a very small proportion represents American investments. During the last two years special efforts have been put forth to create a demand for Guatemala coffee in the United States. According to reports received from various American firms, their promotion efforts are producing results. In 1915 the export of coffee to the United States from Guatemala was 66 per cent of the crop. This year the United States will take between 75 and 80 per cent of the production, the remainder going to the Scandinavian countries. Prior to the war the market for Guatemala coffee was found in Europe, Germany, England, and Sweden taking two-thirds of the annual production.

GROWING POPULARITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA APPLES.

[Consul W. E. Alger, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Nov. 8.]

Importations of apples from the United States to British Columbia are falling rapidly. This year only 20 carloads will come into the Fernie district. A few years ago, in order to sell British Columbia apples here it was necessary to label them Washington or Ontario apples; now Ontario apples are labeled British Columbia apples. Apples retail in Fernie at 3 for 10 cents.

COTTON GOODS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

American manufacturers of cotton goods are advised of the need of establishing, under a cooperative plan, an importing firm of their own in the Madras Presidency of British India, if they are to win a share of the trade there that is now very largely supplied by British mills. The possibilities in that market are fully described in a report prepared by Special Agent Ralph M. Odell and published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

The failure of American manufacturers to obtain a share of the cotton-goods trade of Madras has been due partly to manufacturing difficulties and partly to inadequate selling facilities. There is no American general importing firm in Madras, and such business as Americans seek at present would have to be handled by British firms that have long-established connections in England. Several of them are quite willing to purchase in the United States if we can furnish the goods required at competitive prices and provide the same facilities, by quoting prices c. i. f. Madras, accepting small initial orders, and supplying wide assortments of prints, which they obtain from England. It is apparent, however, that the wisest course would be the establishment of an American importing firm. To introduce goods properly, salesmen should be sent to the district with a full line of samples prepared after a careful study of samples which Mr. Odell has forwarded.

India's Present Purchases of American Cotton Goods.

Mr. Odell cites the fact that the United States contributes nothing toward the total of \$25,000,000 worth of cotton goods imported into that district, but only 10 per cent of the goods imported even approximate in construction and quality the lines that are produced in the United States. This country exports annually about \$1,000,000 worth of cotton cloth to the whole of India, and this is practically all gray drills, which are shipped to Bombay and Karachi. There is no demand at all for these goods in Madras.

In spite of this unfavorable situation it is believed that changing conditions such as the difficulty of securing goods and the rising cost of production in England, which supplies about 99 per cent of the demand, make it highly advisable that American manufacturers should undertake a careful study of the market, with a view to the possible production of the cloths desired. Such action on the part of the manufacturers is all the more urgent because the goods that are in demand in Madras, such as gray and white dhoties and shirtings and printed saris, are practically the same as those in general demand throughout India, which is the largest market in the world for cotton piece goods.

The samples that Mr. Odell has forwarded form an extensive collection which is described fully in the new report, and the samples themselves will be placed on exhibition in the principal cotton goods manufacturing centers. Their final resting place will be the permanent collection of samples maintained at the district office of the Bureau in the New York customhouse. There are 79 samples in the Madras collection, some of which contain several patterns.

World's Largest Market for English Goods.

India is the largest market in the world for English cotton goods. It takes more than 40 per cent of the cotton cloth exported by Great

Britain. In Madras, as in other parts of India, British merchants have secured the bulk of the trade by establishing themselves in the country and learning the demands, habits, and business methods of the natives. It is a field that is rich in possibilities, because the consumption of cotton goods increases year by year as the economic and social condition of the natives is being raised under the efficient and progressive administration of the British Government.

The report just published is entitled "Cotton Goods in British India; Part 1, Madras Presidency," Special Agents Series No. 124. It is the first of a series of reports that will be published by the Bureau on the cotton-goods trade in India, the succeeding reports to be devoted to Bengal, Burma, Bombay, and Sind. There are in all 50 pages. Copies may be obtained at 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

COTTON EXPORTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending November 18, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....		Philadelphia.....	1,028	San Francisco.....	6,335
Massachusetts.....	1,540	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	8,700
Maryland.....	2,042	Virginia.....		Total.....	122,425
New York.....	17,325	Galveston.....	71,738		
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	13,717		

The exports of 122,425 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 2,275,022 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 98,279 bales for the week and 1,704,223 bales in the cotton year.

EXPECTED REOPENING OF CANADIAN ANTIMONY MINES.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Nov. 10.]

The North American Antimony Smelting Co. (Ltd.), with a capitalization of \$2,000,000, has just been incorporated. It is presumed that the company is being organized by the American interests that recently secured an option on the antimony mines at Lake George in the St. Stephen consular district.

This property, which is located near Rosborough Station on the line of the Canadian Government Railways in York County, was closed, owing, it is said, to a lack of capital and to a drop in the price of antimony. About a year ago the Canadian Antimony Co. leased the mines to the New Brunswick Metals (Ltd.) for three years on a royalty basis. Later it was rumored that Nova Scotia interests were negotiating for their purchase by new capital.

NEW TOBACCO LAW IN ECUADOR.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Oct. 21.]

The Congress of Ecuador has recently passed a law providing for Government control of the tobacco industry, on the basis of concessions to producers and selling agencies. The privilege of selling tobacco in Ecuador for a period of one to four years will be sold by the Government to the highest bidder, in accordance with special regulations which are to be issued by December 1. A translation of the law, as published in *El Telegrafo* of October 21, follows:

Tobacco Growers Must Obtain Licenses.

ARTICLE 1. The production and manufacture of tobacco in the Republic shall be exempt from all fiscal taxes.

ART. 2. No one shall be allowed to raise tobacco without having previously given written notice to the authority specified in the regulations of the present law and in the terms therein prescribed.

ART. 3. Having given the required notice, as specified in the previous article, the tobacco grower shall obtain the respective license, for which there shall be no charge.

Duties, Permits, and Taxes.

ART. 4. Manufactured tobacco shall be free of all export duties, and leaf tobacco shall pay an export duty of 9 sucres (\$4.38) for every 46 kilos (101.4 pounds) gross weight.

ART. 5. Tobacco in any form can not be transported from one place to another without the necessary permit stating the place of production and destination, the name of the producer, transporter, and consignee, the net weight of the article, whether leaf or filler, and the number of cigars and cigarettes in boxes, if it be manufactured tobacco.

Leaf or filler tobacco can not be transported even within the town without the permit referred to in the above paragraph. The lack of this permit for any of the cases provided for in this article shall be occasion for contraband proceedings, the tobacco being immediately confiscated without further notice.

ART. 6. All tobacco on hand in the Republic on January 1, 1917, shall pay a tax of 2 sucres (97.34 cents) for each 46 kilos (101.4 pounds) net weight for leaf tobacco and up to 0.50 sucre (24.34 cents) for every hundred cigars of whatever quality and 0.01 sucre (0.5 cent) for each cigarette box of the kind used at this time.

Auction of Selling Privilege.

ART. 7. The establishments selling tobacco in any form shall pay an annual tax of not less than 180 sucres (\$87.60) and not more than 9,600 sucres (\$4,672), which shall be paid within six days after the regular auction or monthly in advance.

These auctions shall take place between the 1st and 15th of December of each year, to comply with the regulations. The basis, terms, and conditions shall be announced 30 days in advance, and the auctions shall be held at the capital of each Province, for all districts or Provinces, before the finance committee and a notary public, in conformity with the regulations. In case the Executive should receive by the 10th of October of any year an offer at least 10 per cent higher than that fixed in the budget for the auction in the whole Republic, this offer shall be taken as the basis for the general auction, which shall be announced within 40 days thereafter. This auction shall take place before the finance committee of the capital of the Republic, the committee being presided over by the Subsecretary of the Minister of Finance. For a general auction of a term of more than one year and not more than four years the offers must comply with the preceding requirements, and there shall be increase of at least 10 per cent in the annual quota during the time of the contract or concession.

Regulations and Penalties for Infractions.

ART. 8. The collection of the taxes on tobacco, as assigned by special laws and decrees, shall be done directly by municipalities, corporations, or designated employees, according to the said laws and decrees.

ART. 9. According to the Penal Code, every citizen has the right to report any smuggling of tobacco to the Government, such person being entitled to 50 per cent of the quantity of the article confiscated.

ART. 10. Infractions of the present law and its regulations shall be punished by confiscation and a fine of from 50 sucres (\$24.34) to 500 sucres (\$243.35), according to the extent of the infraction.

ART. 11. The present law shall go into effect on January 1, 1917, and the regulations shall be issued by the Government before December 1, 1916.

ART. 12. The first auction shall take place from January 1 to 15, 1917, and notices shall be published 30 days in advance.

ART. 13. All opposing laws or decrees are hereby repealed.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 25	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkersford, Amherst County, Va.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany...	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Pendell Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, Joseph A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay...	Dec. 1	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gerhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

NETHERLANDS SEEKS INCREASED TRADE IN AUSTRALASIA.

[Office of American Commercial Attaché, The Hague, Netherlands.]

The last report of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce at Melbourne recommends that Holland send special representatives with plenty of samples, etc., to Australasia in an effort to increase Dutch trade in that quarter of the world. It is pointed out that the United States and a few other countries have been very energetic in this respect.

Chilean Commissioner to Study Paper Manufacture.

Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, of Santiago, reports that Señor Egidio Poblete has been commissioned by the Chilean Government to study the paper-making industry in the United States and Canada.

CORN PRODUCTS IN MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, AND REUNION.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tamatave, Madagascar, July 22.]

Because of the lack of industries in which glucose, manufacturing starches, dextrines, and crude oils may be used and the scarcity of cattle it is unlikely that a large demand could be created in Mauritius for these articles or for cattle feeds. Some interest may be developed in edible cornstarch, laundry starch, corn flour, and refined corn oil for cooking and salad purposes. These articles, with perhaps the exception of refined corn oil, which has not been introduced in this section, usually have been supplied by England and France. The Mauritius merchants are inclined and desire to enter into relations with manufacturers and exporters of merchandise in the United States, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made with respect to terms and shipping facilities.

Conditions Under Which Business is Conducted.

The usual methods of effecting payment for merchandise ordered through Mauritius brokerage firms are: (a) By draft at 15 or 30 days' sight, with interest at 6 per cent per annum from the date of invoice to the approximate due date of arrival of the remittance at the place of the drawer, and if the merchandise is purchased through an export commission house 3 per cent commission to the latter; (b) draft at 90 or 120 days from date of invoice, documents against acceptance, with interest at 6 per cent, and a commission of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the export commission house; (c) draft without documents attached to be collected either through local banks or financial agents.

According to ordinance No. 46, of 1898, on each bill of exchange, promissory note, or acceptance drawn out of Mauritius and expressed to be payable or actually paid or indorsed or in any manner negotiated in Mauritius there is a stamp tax ranging from \$0.08 for those not exceeding 500 rupees (\$162.22) in value to \$6.49 for those not exceeding 40,000 rupees (\$12,977). For each additional 10,000 rupees (\$3,244) or part thereof the charge is increased by \$1.62.

European Firms Have Agencies at Port Louis.

Besides the large volume of business done through commission houses, European firms have placed agencies with the more important firms in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, and merchandise is shipped on open credit or on consignment.

Prices quoted in Indian rupees or pounds sterling c. i. f. Port Louis are preferable, the rupee being valued at 15 to the pound sterling.

The best shipping route between the United States and Mauritius is from New York and other eastern ports via South Africa and over the Union Castle Line, which has a ship to Mauritius from South African ports at least once every month. In normal times trans-Atlantic lines, especially those running from New York to ports in France, issue through bills of lading for the islands of this section of the Indian Ocean, but it is now impossible because of war conditions to obtain such service. Correspondence with Mauritian firms may be in English or French.

Corn flour and cornstarch are not specially mentioned in the published list of articles that pay customs duty when imported into

SUPPLEMENT TO COMMERCE REPORTS



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Annual Series

No. 28a

November 20, 1916

FRENCH WEST INDIES.

MARTINIQUE.

By Consul Thomas R. Wallace, Fort de France, August 1.

The foreign trade of Martinique for 1915 amounted to \$12,884,179, the highest figure recorded, and the increase was almost wholly due to the greater value of the exports. The total exports for 1915 were valued at \$8,391,473, which was 36 per cent greater than for any previous year. The output of products was not above the average but the high prices obtained account for the increased value of the exports. The trend of the export trade was along the same general lines as in the past. The principal articles exported were sugar, rum, and cacao, practically all of which were sent to France. The United States is the second largest importer of the products of Martinique, and shares with France in the exports of vanilla beans, goat and sheep skins, and with other countries in the exports of bay oil and lime oil. A small amount of rum and sugar is shipped to Haiti, also a part of the reshipments of wine. The exports to Porto Rico consist of empty barrels and a small quantity of rum.

Consumption of Foreign Goods—Increased Imports of American Products.

The consumption of foreign goods in 1915 was less than in the average year, although there was a larger use of coal, fertilizers, and edible oils. The increased cost of necessities more than balanced the economy practiced in the purchase of supplies, and the total imports were about 5 per cent above the average.

The United States furnished a fraction over 50 per cent of the imports for Martinique in 1915, while France and its colonies supplied 37 per cent, thus reversing prevailing conditions in previous years. Great Britain and its colonies furnished over 11 per cent, and all other countries less than 2 per cent.

Total Exports in 1915.

Exports to France in 1915 were valued at \$7,819,791; to the United States, \$5,006; to the British colonies, \$1,992; and to various other countries, \$4,100.

Reexports to France in 1915 amounted to \$336,013; Panama, \$100,859; British colonies, \$27,880; Great Britain, \$2,274; Haiti, \$22,176; Porto Rico, \$2,028; and the United States, \$1,618. The reexports to the United States and Porto Rico were principally empty containers.

High Prices Received for Sugar—Other Exports.

The quantity of sugar exported from Martinique in 1915 amounted to 38,925 metric tons of 2,204 pounds each, compared with 38,581 tons in 1914, and the amount received for the 1915 crop was a fraction less than double the amount received in 1914. The value of the sugar exported in 1915 exceeded all former records.

The quantity of rum exported in 1915 was 6,385,655 gallons, an increase of 753,335 gallons over the production of 1914. The prices obtained were about the same for both years. The French Government issued a requisition for the rum products of the island, and the price paid was profitable for the distillers.

The crop of cacao in the island was above the average in quantity and of good quality, the prices realized were satisfactory, and the exports increased in value about 30 per cent. The quantity exported was 505.3 metric tons, compared with 452 tons in 1914.

The banana crop was poor, and the local market absorbed the crop, the fruit selling at double its former price.

The production of cassia in Martinique has declined in recent years, and the price paid influences the output. There were 160 tons produced in 1912, 50 tons in 1913, 106 in 1914, and 17 tons in 1915.

The Coffee Industry.

There have been planted since 1913, 39,000 coffee trees of the Liberia and Robusta varieties in the island. The planters have discovered that the quality of the coffee is influenced by the character of the soil in which it is planted. The strong and prolific Liberia is modified after a few seasons in Martinique, and in certain soils the berry becomes smaller, much of the bitter taste disappears, and the aroma resembles the Arabic, the variety that has made Martinique coffee famous on the French markets. It also appears that the tendency of the Robusta, which is a Java variety, to produce larger grains and an improved flavor results from properly selected soils.

A disease which attacked the Arabic coffee trees makes it difficult to produce this brand.

The quantity of coffee exported was below the average in 1915, but the higher prices received placed it in value on an average with former years. There were 9.3 tons exported, compared with 14 tons in 1914.

Unsuccessful Development of Lime Industry.

Since 1914 there have been 200,000 lime trees planted in Martinique, and several attempts have been made to start a lime industry here, but it has so far proved unsuccessful. A small quantity of lime juice and citrate of lime have recently been produced and successfully marketed, and the quality has been pronounced excellent. Limes grow with little care in Martinique and produce abundant fruit of a fine quality.

The high prices paid for sugar and rum in 1914 and 1915 has had a tendency to lessen the interest in the coffee and lime industries, although additional areas are being planted with these trees.

Chief Articles Exported in 1913, 1914, and 1915.

The chief articles and their values exported from Martinique in 1913, 1914, and 1915, are shown in the table following.

Articles.	1913	1914	1915	Articles.	1913	1914	1915
Bananas.....	\$1,958	\$310	.....	Vanilla.....	\$14,725	\$3,440	\$7,412
Cassia.....	225	2,027	\$325	Pineapples.....	.....	1,718	19,686
Cacao.....	206,110	179,125	238,606	All other articles.....	125,890	22,499	45,197
Cinnamon.....	.....	.....	811	Total.....	4,966,839	5,186,964	7,830,860
Coffee.....	4,619	9,261	4,413	Reexports.....	580,240	535,616	560,583
Hides.....	30,256	30,221	25,553	Total exports.....	5,577,085	5,745,580	8,391,473
Rum.....	2,234,205	2,598,853	2,901,818				
Sugar.....	2,378,851	2,328,060	1,582,420				
Sugar, raw.....	.....	6,450	1,649				

Principal Articles Imported into Martinique—Countries Supplying Goods.

The principal articles imported from the United States in 1915 were coal, fertilizers, provisions, edible oils, petroleum products, building materials, vehicles, and manufactured articles. The commodities furnished by France were manufactured articles, cloth, fabrics, machinery, vehicles, wines, liquors, and provisions, and the colonies sent molasses, tropical products, and reshipments of general supplies. Great Britain supplied fertilizers and a few manufactured articles, and its colonies and dependencies sent rice, molasses, provisions, and sundries. St. Martin maintains a steady trade with Martinique in salt, exports of this product amounting to \$7,235 in 1915, a gain of 24 per cent over 1914.

The following table shows the total value of imports received in Martinique from the various countries in 1914 and 1915:

Countries of origin.	1914	1915	Countries of origin.	1914	1915
Chile.....	.....	\$31,672	Italy.....	.....	\$1,746
France.....	\$1,847,706	1,633,525	India.....	.....	7,166
Reexportation from			Panama.....	\$5,311	7,501
France.....	50,660	5,886	Porto Rico.....	.....	9,746
French colonies.....	159,204	93,200	St. Martin.....	5,836	7,235
Reexportation from			Switzerland.....	.....	1,073
French colonies.....	598	7,600	St. Thomas.....	.....	1,690
Great Britain.....	363,922	363,150	United States.....	1,545,896	2,254,518
Colonies.....	117,667	147,443	Venezuela.....	3,193	11,626
Germany.....	10,663	.....	Other countries.....	3,023	2,748
Haiti.....	1,069	4,494	Total.....	4,269,498	4,492,724
Holland.....	155,098	925			

Martinique's Trade With United States.

The imports from the United States into Martinique have gradually increased in quantity and value since 1909, and certain American products have become staples and now practically supply the demand. From 1909 to 1914 there was an increase of 55 per cent in the imports of American goods, but when compared with 1915 the increase is over 127 per cent.

The consumption of coal in the island increased in quantity 23,321 metric tons from 1910 to 1915 and in value, \$55,575. Small quantities were formerly procured from other countries, but it now practically all comes from America.

Construction materials in Martinique are largely of white and red pine, and are imported from America. A steady improvement in the lumber trade is shown by the statistics from 1909 to 1914; imports declined in 1914, however, and in 1915 lumber imports were 40 per cent less than in the previous year.

America's trade with the island in lime and cement has developed in the past five years. In 1910 the United States furnished the island with \$450 worth of these products; in 1915 the imports

totaled \$15,047, of which America supplied \$9,387. A demand was created in 1912 to supply materials for public works being constructed on the island, but imports have gradually fallen off since and are now about normal. Trade in all construction materials has been adversely affected by the war.

Fertilizers Largely Used—Petroleum Products.

The fertilizers used in Martinique are composed of ammoniacs, potashes, superphosphates, and a small quantity of guano. A portion of the total amount used on the island is for cacao and pine-apples, and the remainder for sugar cane. The larger part of the chemicals used in making fertilizers is mixed by the planters and the unmixed article is used only in a small proportion to the total amount consumed.

The imports of fertilizers into the island average about \$400,000 per year, although in 1915 this sum was exceeded and indications point to a further increase in the future. Of the total imports of fertilizers in 1914, valued at \$401,074, the United States supplied only \$29,567 worth. The imports for 1915 were unprecedented, amounting to \$648,379, of which the United States furnished \$332,803, an amount greater than the total values of the imports for the past eight years from America.

The demand for petroleum products has steadily increased, but the trade with the United States has not developed in the same proportion; in 1910 practically all of the petroleum products consumed in Martinique were imported from the United States. A cheaper product from America has been introduced on the market which now supplies about 20 per cent of the demand.

Salted and Preserved Meats—Codfish.

The demand for salted meat in the island is governed by the supply of butchers' stock procured from the local market or imported from abroad. The best pasture land is being used for the cultivation of cane, and fewer cattle are raised for domestic use than formerly, and imports of salted meats will probably increase. The importation of butchers' stock is sometimes difficult, and a shortage of fresh meat is common in the markets.

Under normal conditions salted codfish is shipped to Martinique from French colonies in French vessels, and as the fish are entered free of duty they practically monopolize the trade, although a small quantity is procured annually from the United States. The war has caused a part of this trade to be diverted to the United States.

The demand for cottonseed oil varies but little annually. A small portion was formerly imported from Europe, but in recent years the total supply has come from the United States.

Imports of Flour, Oleomargarin, Potatoes, Etc.

The best qualities of flour are sent to Martinique in sacks and the poorer grades in barrels. Delivery from the steamer to the warehouse is usually under adverse conditions, which may account for its rapid deterioration, although the climate is doubtless partly responsible.

The quantity of flour consumed annually does not vary to any extent. Imports from the United States have gradually increased, as in 1910 it supplied 68 per cent of the total imports and in 1915 99 per cent.

About one-half of the butter consumed in the island formerly came from the United States, but its importation has almost ceased. The total trade in butter has declined to less than one-third of the imports of 1910 and oleomargarin is being substituted.

The imports of oleomargarin have increased in the past six years, but the demand for the American product has steadily declined, although prior to 1913 two-thirds of the imports came from the United States. The product from Europe sells for less on the market, but the tariff no doubt affects the price of the American article.

The quantity of corn imported from the United States has steadily decreased, but owing to the higher prices received for this product the returns show an increase of over 35 per cent in the value of the imports.

Beans, potatoes, and onions are the principal vegetables imported into Martinique, and the imports were greater both in quantity and value in 1915 than for many years.

Horse-Drawn Vehicles Being Replaced by Automobiles.

The number of carriages, buggies, and other wheeled vehicles imported are becoming less every year. Small factories on the island import the parts and finish the vehicles here. Practically all of the imported vehicles of this class and 75 per cent of the parts come from the United States.

The motor car is taking the place of the horse-drawn vehicle in Martinique and there is a steady demand for light, low-priced cars. A few auto trucks have been imported, but the demand for them is not great.

The total number of automobiles imported in 1915 was 63, of which 58 came from the United States, and the number imported in 1914 was 71, of which 47 were of American manufacture.

Total Values of Imports into Martinique and Amounts from United States.

The total values of the principal imports into Martinique for 1914 and 1915 and the articles imported from the United States during the same period are shown in the following table:

Articles.	Total imports.		Imports from United States.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
Alimentary fats.....	\$57,800	\$6,380	\$55	\$25
Animals, live; mules.....	850		386	
Bags, jute.....	50,580	44,215	32	24,181
Beer.....	21,050	8,595	91	1,620
Blacking.....	2,216	3,334	152	779
Breadstuffs:				
Biscuits—				
Sweet.....		3,014		213
Other.....	12,638	2,111	5,730	1,805
Cakes, sweet.....		785		764
Corn—				
Grain.....	29,305	27,323	28,660	26,789
Flour.....	1,070	1,826	1,050	1,721
Flour.....	367,263	466,159	359,190	495,291
Oats.....	12,592	10,817	3,040	8,250
Rice.....	100,740	113,202	8,423	215
Semolina.....	1,520	5,694		205
Butter.....	10,580	8,703	326	1,062
Cement.....	24,530	15,047	9,564	9,387
Chemicals:				
Sulphur.....		5,108		1,384
Sulphuric acid.....		1,365		1,215
Other chemicals.....		26,294		4,142
Coal.....	406,375	419,911	406,043	412,636
Coffee.....		51,423		14,693
Copper.....		12,107		3,223

Articles.	Total imports.		Imports from United States.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
Cordage, twine, and rope.....	\$15,456	\$27,808		887
Cotton, and manufactures:				
Waste and flocks.....	1,305	1,857	\$784	656
Cloth.....	4,763	128,625	948	5,003
Made-up articles.....	167,145	98,762	1,255	696
Fertilizers:				
Guano.....		45,569		808
Mixed chemicals.....	66,808			
Potassium nitrate.....	78,727		15,293	
Sodium nitrate.....	107,080	227,560	4,133	191,082
Superphosphates.....	39,200	100,800	9,166	95,940
Sulphate of potash.....	38,283			
Sulphate of ammonia.....	110,178	274,450		43,992
Fish:				
Codfish, salted.....	318,170	243,677	4,604	43,966
Herring, salted.....	5,878	1,461	5,711	1,368
Sardines.....	3,900	3,910		9
Fruits: Canned.....		5,028		967
Glass and crystal.....	16,137	12,562	870	2,664
Iron and steel:				
Bars.....		6,598		3,517
Rods, wire.....	74,950	2,804	1,931	1,535
Sheets.....		29,877		9,128
Hoops.....		13,800		8,902
Rails.....		22,061		17,666
Straight axes.....		1,120		671
Machinery, tools.....	117,071	526	16,138	247
Nails, screws, staples.....	6,925	11,104	340	2,598
Other articles.....		11,287		537
Jewelry.....	30,496	33,050	263	299
Lead.....	20,499	4,164	20,235	2,537
Leather and manufactures:				
Hides.....		78,138		2,494
Shoes.....		15,213		985
Other articles.....		8,490		1,299
Meats:				
Preserved.....	2,687	4,647	218	656
Salted.....	4,131	120,694	4,061	119,713
Matches.....		5,201		3,530
Molasses.....	66,908	65,224		
Musical instruments:				
Pianos.....		5,379		1,129
Other.....		1,740		473
Oils:				
Cottonseed.....	163,926	211,533	163,926	211,533
Linseed.....		5,424		962
Mineral oils:				
Refined.....	38,520	13,242	37,160	10,311
Other.....		26,224		25,698
Heavy oils.....	6,970	9,563	2,896	4,644
Oleomargarin.....	20,536	96,454	5,033	3,403
Paper.....		43,685		1,734
Paints.....		12,276		1,620
Pottery.....		14,020		656
Rubber, pipes, bands.....	2,216	453	212	179
Salt.....	9,527	12,745	340	311
Sewing machines.....		3,770		3,505
Soap.....		64,020		14,342
Tobacco and manufactures:				
Tobacco leaf.....	13,183	16,965	13,162	16,030
Cigars.....		1,287		220
Vegetables:				
Beans.....	2,452	35,171	38	11,467
Onions.....	14,832	20,304	25	2,410
Potatoes.....	11,730	19,675	1,800	2,496
Vehicles and parts:				
Motor cars.....	46,920	39,352	37,330	34,141
Carriages, buggies.....	568	386		386
Vehicles, parts.....	2,865	3,538	2,546	2,561
Wood, and manufactures of:				
Lumber.....				
Boards.....	116,440	75,665	116,566	75,283
Other lumber.....		4,343		2,590
Furniture.....	12,525	7,594	3,903	3,516
Railway ties.....		18,773		8,028
Shooks.....	57,677	135,044	44,490	127,120
Staves.....	154,583	72,000	154,583	71,989
Wickerware.....		20,675		1,190
All other articles.....	1,213,904	477,441	52,711	72,216
Total.....	4,269,498	4,492,724	1,545,896	2,254,518

American Business Connections—Shipping.

Not more than three American salesmen representing American houses called at Martinique in 1915 with the object of establishing connections or selling goods. A possible half dozen called who represented American concerns having an established trade or business connections with Martinique firms.

Most of the new business transacted was through resident dealers who secured the addresses of American houses carrying the commodities they desired or in answer to letters from American firms who had obtained the addresses of business houses in Martinique from this consulate.

A local commission house benefited to the extent of \$80,000 in orders made through letters from the consulate to American firms, and expressly requested that their name be mentioned in answering letters from exporters in the United States.

The number of vessels entering the ports of the island in 1915 was 407, with a tonnage amounting to 461,829; in 1914 there were 472 vessels, of 459,052 tons. Of those entering in 1915, 191 vessels, of 304,086 tons, were French; 143 vessels, of 950,030 tons, were British; 28 vessels, of 40,092 tons, were Norwegian; 27 vessels, of 19,086 tons, were American; 16 vessels, of 900 tons, were Dutch; 1 vessel, of 1,298 tons, was Swedish; and there was 1 Mexican vessel of 607 tons.

Three American steamers that entered this port in 1915 were the first American merchant vessels of the kind that appear on the records of the American consulate since 1903.

GUADELOUPE.

By Consul Henry T. Wilcox, September 12.

Guadeloupe, the largest island of the French West Indies, has a population of about 183,000 and a total area of 722 square miles, 32 per cent of which is under cultivation. According to official figures the cultivated land is divided among the important crops as follows: Sugar cane, 49 per cent; provisions for local consumption, 28 per cent; coffee, 10½ per cent; cocoa, 7 per cent; and the remaining 5½ per cent is given over to vanilla, lime trees, etc. The prosperity of the colony depends entirely upon the production of this cultivated portion of the island, for there are no industries other than those that are closely connected with agriculture. The soil is fertile, and the rainfall is usually sufficient for the needs of the crops.

The year 1915 was, on the whole, a prosperous one for the colony. Crops were good, prices were high, and the only real cause for complaint was the scarcity of labor, which resulted in the loss of parts of the coffee and cocoa crops.

Many classes of goods could not be purchased from France in 1915 on account of the war, and importers sent to the United States for merchandise. Prices were higher, as imports from countries other than France pay higher duties than French goods. As good prices were obtained for agricultural products during 1915, however, the planters were in a prosperous condition at the close of the year.

Principal Products of the Island—High Prices Obtained.

The principal products raised in Guadeloupe are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoa, coffee, and vanilla. Of these, sugar and its by-products

are the most important, 82 per cent of the exports being composed of raw sugar, rum, and molasses. Cocoa and coffee follow and make up 10 and 7 per cent of the exports, respectively, while the remaining 1 per cent is composed principally of vanilla.

As in 1914, climatic conditions during 1915 were favorable for the crops. The hurricane of August, 1915, passed close to the island, but did little damage.

Compared with the prices of 1914, those of the following year were higher in almost every case. The following table shows the average prices for 1914 and 1915:

Articles.	1914	1915	Articles.	1914	1915
Sugar.....lb..	\$0.034	\$0.048	Cocoa.....lb..	\$0.232	\$0.262
Rum.....gall..	.377	.303	Coffee.....lb..	.287	.286
Molasses.....gall..	.123	.12	Vanilla.....lb..	1.84	1.90

Sugar Crop in 1915—Rum and Molasses.

While the sugar crop of 1914 was larger than for many years, that of 1915 was barely above normal. A slight drought during August and September of 1914 retarded the growth of the canes, and the wet weather early in 1915 reduced the quantity of saccharine matter. While the high price of raw sugar prevented any loss to the property owners, the large planters who have mills for extracting sugar made the least profit. The small planters, however, made large gains, for they sold their cane by weight, and received 14 francs (\$2.70) per metric ton (2,204 pounds), which was double the price received during 1914. Laborers in the cane fields and sugar mills were granted an increase of 25 centimes (5 cents) per day.

After the beginning of the war there was a shortage of beet sugar in France, and the demand from this island was much greater than usual. On several occasions steamers loading for France received orders to accept nothing but sugar.

The quantity of rum produced in 1915 was only 77 per cent of that produced in the previous year, and prices were almost 20 per cent lower in 1915. The reduction was caused by the inability of exporters to make large shipments, owing to the lack of shipping facilities.

The exportation of molasses decreased 29 per cent in 1915, owing to the shortness of the sugar crop, but the price remained about the same as in 1914. Large quantities of this product are annually shipped to the neighboring island of Martinique, where it is bought by the distilleries and made into rum.

Coffee, Cocoa, and Vanilla Crops.

Although the coffee crops of both 1914 and 1915 were good, that of the latter year was the larger by 39,600 pounds, and brought better returns to the planters as the price was \$0.008 more per pound. The arabica coffee of Guadeloupe is considered by many to be the best in the world, and it is exported almost entirely to France, where it commands the highest prices.

For the first 7 months of 1915 the production of cocoa was barely that of normal years, but the prospects for the remainder of the year were good. The hurricane in August destroyed many of the pods,

and brought the total quantity for the year below the average. Good prices, however, made up for the lack of quantity. While 2,081,784 pounds of cocoa valued at \$484,373 were exported during 1914, only 1,853,896 pounds were exported during 1915, but the total value was \$485,802. The entire crop was exported to France in both years.

Although vanilla furnishes only a small part of the exports of the colony, it is the chief article exported to the United States, and there was a normal production in 1915. The average price obtained for this product in 1915 was 6 cents higher per pound than in the year before.

The bulk of the vanilla and vanillon crop for 1915 was not shipped to the United States until after January 1, 1916, and a larger proportion than usual of vanillon, which is not as valuable as vanilla, was shipped during 1915.

Declared Exports to the United States.

The following table shows the quantities and values of exports invoiced for the United States during 1914 and 1915:

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Pounds.	Values.	Pounds.	Values.
Bay leaves.....	22,807	\$700	13,367	\$486
Bay oil.....	2,236	3,332	1,464	1,949
Coffee.....	5,937	1,113	3,523	617
Limes.....	8,318	155		
Goatskins.....	1,726	567		
Vanilla and vanillon.....	23,963	43,157	23,476	34,276
All other articles.....	8,813	884	2,107	101
Total.....		50,007		37,409

Decreased Exportations of Bay Leaves and Limes.

In the last few years the leaves have been stripped from the bay trees faster than they could grow, and, consequently, the quantities of bay leaves and bay oil for exportation are diminishing yearly.

The exportation of limes continues to decrease, because the planters have ceased to take an interest in their cultivation. The Government, however, is taking steps to encourage the industry, but it will be several years before the quantity available for export increases.

There were no exports of goatskins during 1915, as the natives found it cheaper to make the skins into leather for local use than to export them and then import leather for shoes and other articles.

Returned American goods were valued at \$5,526 in 1915, compared with \$518 in 1914. The increase was due to the reshipment of American cotton goods, valued at \$4,838, to Porto Rico. The other principal items returned were empty gasoline drums and parts of vehicles for repairs.

Shipping Facilities.

The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique maintains a fortnightly freight and passenger service between France and Colon, Panama, calling on both the outward and homeward voyages at several intermediate ports, among which are Basse Terre and Pointe-a-Pitre, the two ports of this island. This company also has a small steamer which makes monthly trips, starting at Martinique and calling at

Guadeloupe, St. Thomas, Porto Rico, Haiti, and Santo Domingo. The steamers of the Quebec Steamship Co.'s fortnightly service carry mail, passengers, and freight and call at Guadeloupe twice during each round trip from New York. The steamers of the Raporel Steamship Co. of New York call at Pointe-a-Pitre on their south-bound voyages whenever they have freight for the island; the vessels do not carry passengers, however, and the service is irregular.

Of the clearances during 1914, 29 were for New York, 13 for Porto Rico, and 24 for Colon; and during 1915, 30 vessels cleared for New York, 10 for Porto Rico, and 22 for Colon.

Commodities Imported—Principal Articles Supplied by United States.

Although statistics of the imports into Guadeloupe during 1915 are not yet available the imports from the United States were greater than in 1914 according to a comparison of the amounts received in payment of customs duties during the past two years. As French goods are not subject to duty and as importers invariably turn to the United States for supplies when French goods are not available it is evident that the increased receipts of customs duties represent increased imports of American goods. The receipts from customs duties amounted to 663,438 francs (\$128,044) during 1914 and 1,055,392 francs (\$203,806) during 1915, an increase of 392,554 francs (\$75,762).

The principal articles imported from the United States were food-stuffs of all sorts, lumber and other building materials, petroleum products, automobiles, furniture, and boots and shoes, while France furnished most of the textiles, millinery, wines, liqueurs, and other luxuries.

Owing to the greatly reduced duties on French goods, compared with the products of other countries, it is believed that upon a return to normal conditions the present demand for American goods will decrease. American goods are popular in Guadeloupe, however, and there are few complaints with regard to packing, credits, etc. Two tariffs are in force in the island, the local tariff (*octroi de mer*), which applies to all imports, and the customs tariff of France, which is charged on imports from countries other than France. The principal demand is for cheap goods owing to the limited purchasing power of the inhabitants.

Public Improvements—Banking Conditions.

No public works of any importance were undertaken during 1914 and 1915. Improvements to the harbor of Pointe-a-Pitre, the erection of a wireless telegraph station, and extensive repairs to the mains which bring the water supply to Pointe-a-Pitre from the mountains were discussed during 1915, but the work was not commenced.

There are two banks in Guadeloupe, the Banque du Commerce and the Banque de la Guadeloupe. The former is a private institution having a capital of 300,000 francs (57,900), and the latter is a semi-official organization having a capital of 3,000,000 francs (\$579,000). According to the statements of the Banque de la Guadeloupe it had deposits of 2,900,639 francs (\$559,823), loans and discounts of 5,144,786 francs (\$992,944), 61½ per cent of which were on harvests, and notes in circulation amounting to 8,178,720 francs (\$1,578,493) on December 31, 1915, compared with deposits of 1,964,871 francs

(\$379,220), loans and discounts of 5,758,292 francs (\$1,111,350), 68 per cent on harvest, and notes in circulation amounting to 7,135,875 francs (\$1,377,224) on December 31, 1914.

When the war began the demand for American goods, principally foodstuffs, increased, and although the Banque de la Guadeloupe had sufficient credit in France it was not prepared to sell drafts for large amounts on New York. This threatened for a short time to handicap trade with the United States, but arrangements were soon made with bankers of Paris whereby the Banque was allowed to draw on New York for \$60,000 monthly. By the end of 1914 still better arrangements were made and the Banque has since been able to draw freely on New York.

The rate of exchange which had been 1 per cent for drafts on Paris and $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for drafts on New York rose immediately at the opening of war to 2 per cent on Paris drafts and $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent on New York, and while the rate for drafts on Paris has remained stationary, that on New York was again increased in May, 1915, by the addition of a commission of one-fourth of 1 per cent. While the Banque de la Guadeloupe, in buying United States currency paid 5.15 francs per dollar during 1914 and the first half of 1915, and 5.25 francs during the latter half of 1915, the price charged when selling United States currency increased from 5.20 francs per dollar in September, 1914, to 6.15 francs per dollar in September, 1915. The following October the price dropped to 5.95 francs, at which point it has remained.

Decreased Dividends—Increased Interest Charges.

Owing to the depreciation in the value of some of the securities held by the Banque, which depreciation had to be charged off during the last two years, the annual dividend for the year ended June 30, 1915, was at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, while the dividend for the previous year was 4 per cent. The Banque also found it necessary to charge 6 per cent interest on loans on crops and 7 per cent on all other loans, instead of 5 and 6 per cent, respectively, which were the rates before the war.

As a result of the increased demand for currency, due to the prosperity of the planters and the increased wages of the laborers, it was deemed necessary to increase its circulation. France having forbidden the exportation of gold and silver the Banque could not add to its reserve as required by law, but the difficulty was overcome by the passage of two acts by the local Government during 1915. The first act gave the Banque permission to issue paper money equal to three times its legal reserve and the second authorized the issuance of paper money equal to five times the reserve.

Mauritius. "Maize flour" is mentioned, however, but this is understood to mean ordinary corn meal, dutiable under tariff No. 59 at 0.94 rupee per 100 kilos (\$0.14 per 100 pounds), reckoned at the normal rate of \$0.3244 for the rupee, while "starch" is dutiable under tariff No. 107 at 1.50 rupees per 100 kilos (\$0.23 per 100 pounds).

Crane Dues Payable in Addition to Tariff Charges.

Refined corn oil would appear to be dutiable, under tariff No. 87, as "olive or any other salad oil," at 1 rupee (\$0.3244) per case of not more than 12 liters (3.17 gallons, or 12.68 quarts), or, if in casks or demijohns, 9 rupees per hectoliter (\$0.14 per gallon). Crane dues for the use of the crane in lifting heavy goods are charged at the rate of 2 rupees per 1,000 kilos (\$0.03 per 100 pounds), but this may not necessarily apply to corn products.

A small demand for glucose might be developed in Reunion in connection with tobacco manufacturing and packing. The island may also furnish a market for edible cornstarch, laundry starch, corn flour, and refined corn oil. These goods, when imported into Reunion, will be subject to the payment of the French customs duty, as follows:

Glucose.—Tariff No. 93, 31 francs per 100 kilos (\$2.72 per 100 pounds). The same goods imported from French colonies and possessions pay only 25 francs per 100 kilos (\$2.19 per 100 pounds). An additional tax is charged on the bottle containers at the rate of 5.25 francs per 100 kilos (\$0.47 per 100 pounds) gross weight.

Edible cornstarch.—Tariff No. 319, 15 francs general and 12 francs minimum per 100 kilos (\$1.31 and \$1.05, respectively, per 100 pounds) net, that from the United States being subject to the higher rate.

Laundry starch.—Tariff No. 318, 21 francs general and 18 francs minimum per 100 kilos (\$1.93 and \$1.58, respectively, per 100 pounds) net, that from the United States being subject to the higher rate.

Corn flour.—Tariff No. 72, 5 francs per 100 kilos (\$0.44 per 100 pounds) gross.

Refined corn oil.—Tariff No. 110, 23 francs general and 15 francs minimum per 100 kilos (\$2.01 and \$1.35, respectively, per 100 pounds) net, that from the United States being subject to the lower rate. The bottle containers pay the additional tax mentioned above for glucose.

In addition to the customs duty merchandise imported into Reunion is subject to an octroi de mer tax, as follows: Glucose, edible cornstarch, laundry starch, and corn flour, 4 per cent ad valorem; refined corn oil, 8 francs per 100 kilos—\$0.70 per 100 pounds, at the normal rate of 5.181 francs to the dollar.

Purchased Through French Commission Houses.

These classes of goods, like nearly all other kinds of merchandise imported into Reunion, are purchased largely through French commission houses, by direct correspondence. Previous to the war, goods were sent out from France against 30-day to 90-day acceptances, with and without bills of lading attached. Under present conditions, the tendency is to demand cash with orders. Some of the larger firms, of course, have been able to have the usual credit facilities continued in their favor. As a rule, all French concerns quote goods c. i. f. destination, usually Pointe-des-Calets, the principal port of Reunion.

Practically all the merchandise imported into Reunion is transported by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, from Marseille, or the Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire de Navigation a

Vapeur, from Havre, Bordeaux, and Marseille. Prior to the war, as in the case of Mauritius, it was possible to obtain shipments from the United States over transatlantic lines, for transshipment at the French ports mentioned, but present conditions affecting shipments from the United States to Mauritius would also apply to Reunion.

Correspondence with firms in Reunion should be in French.

Possibility of Developing Trade in Madagascar.

Some interest might be developed in Madagascar in laundry starch, refined corn oil for cooking and salad purposes, corn flour, and cornstarch. Laundry starch and corn flour, the latter chiefly from C. & E. Morton (Ltd.), London, England, are now being imported to some extent, but it would not appear that any considerable quantity of refined corn oil or cornstarch has been imported. Olive oil is used largely for cooking and salad purposes, the quantity imported in 1915 having amounted to 207,834 pounds, valued at \$36,465, against 722,856 pounds, valued at \$53,426, in 1914.

The corn products mentioned, when imported into Madagascar, will be subject to the payment of the French customs duty, as indicated for similar products imported into the island of Reunion. In Madagascar, comestible oils pay a consumption tax of 15 centimes per kilo (\$0.0131 per pound) net.

Shipping Methods and Credit Terms.

The greater part of the merchandise like corn products consumed in Madagascar is imported by large French firms, supplied from headquarters in France. The purely local firms, as a rule, pass their orders through French commission houses. Previous to the war, goods were sent out from France to the latter concerns against acceptance of 30 or 90 days, or with sight drafts, with or without bills of lading attached. Under present conditions the tendency is to demand cash with order. Some of the larger or more reliable firms, however, have been able to have the usual credit facilities continued.

Merchandise is usually billed to Madagascar importers c. i. f. destination or nearest local port. Correspondence with local firms, except the American and British concerns, should be in the French language.

Practically all merchandise imported into Madagascar comes usually from, or via Marseille, Havre, or Bordeaux, by the ships of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, or Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire de Navigation à Vapeur. It is not possible at present, however, to receive merchandise from the United States via those ports on through bills of lading, as was formerly the case. This has been a great hindrance to continuing or establishing business in some lines between Madagascar and the United States.

Possible Change in Bills of Lading.

It may be possible that the Union Castle Mail Steamship Co. will be able to issue through bills of lading in New York for merchandise shipped over its line to South Africa, for transshipment at Durban, over the branch line of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, between Madagascar and Durban. No such combination, however, has yet been made. Occasionally the Union Castle or Clan Line ships, when they have taken on at New York a substantial quantity of goods for this island, come to Madagascar.

[Lists of merchants in Port Louis, Mauritius, and St. Denis, Reunion, who might be interested in glucose, edible cornstarch, laundry starch, corn flour,

and refined corn oil may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 80697. A similar list of merchants in Madagascar may be obtained from these offices by referring to file No. 80698.]

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended November 18, 1916:

Freezing Point of Mercury (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 294).—Results of 19 experiments by which the temperature at which mercury freezes was determined to be $-38^{\circ}.873$. Price, 5 cents.

Australian Markets for American Hardware (Foreign and Domestic Commerce Miscellaneous Series 42).—A general review of conditions, statistics of manufacture and importation, description of the hardware business as transacted, and the most desirable methods of entering the market. Price, 10 cents.

Exporting to Australia: Practices and Regulations to be Observed by American Shippers (Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau Miscellaneous Series 45).—Australian laws and regulations, and information on packing, documenting, and financing the shipments. Price, 5 cents.

PORT MOVEMENT AT BUENOS AIRES.

[Lew B. Clark, secretary to commercial attaché, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Oct. 10.]

During the first nine months of the present year the movement of cars over the railways of the port of Buenos Aires totaled 259,392 goods vans, carrying 2,372,816 tons of cargo, and 1,584 cattle cars. These figures include cargo brought to Buenos Aires for embarkation or for storage in elevators, that discharged or imported, and that in transit to other lines. The figures are divided as follows: Coming into the port, 1,613,914 metric tons; leaving the port, 363,663 tons; in transit, 395,239 tons.

Ginning of American Cotton.

According to preliminary figures issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, the number of running bales (counting round as half bales and excluding linters) of cotton ginned from the growth of 1916 prior to November 14, was 9,615,833, compared with 8,771,275 bales for the corresponding period in 1915 and 11,668,240 bales in 1914. The 1916 statistics include 168,348 round bales; 82,312 bales for 1915; and 31,904 bales for 1914. The number of sea-island bales included is 93,004 for 1916, 68,941 for 1915, and 54,197 for 1914.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

BIG FIELD FOR PORTO RICAN COFFEE IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Sept. 23.]

Spain annually imports about 15,000 metric tons of coffee, 40 per cent of which comes from Brazil, 23 per cent from Porto Rico, and 13 per cent from Venezuela. The remaining 24 per cent is made up of shipments from Nicaragua, Panama, French possessions in America, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, and other countries. According to statistics published by the office of the director general of customs in Spain imports of Porto Rican coffee during the five years from 1910 to 1914, in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each, were 3,610 tons in 1910, 2,896 tons in 1911, 3,321 tons in 1912, 3,906 tons in 1913, and 3,522 tons in 1914.

Most Expensive on Market Except Mocha.

The price paid for Porto Rican coffee in Barcelona fluctuates very slightly. After Mocha it is the most expensive kind on the market. Prices per 100 kilos (220.4 pounds) during the past six months have been: For Porto Rican Yauco, 380 to 396 pesetas (\$68.40 to \$71.28); hacienda, 325 to 355 pesetas (\$58.50 to \$63.90); 1a, 340 to 350 pesetas (\$61.20 to \$63); and caracolillo (peaberry), 390 to 403 pesetas (\$70.20 to \$72.54). Various grades of Santos have been running at 265 to 315 pesetas (\$47.70 to \$56.70), Venezuelan at 294 to 365 pesetas (\$52.92 to \$65.70), and San Salvador at 305 to 370 pesetas (\$54.90 to \$66.60). Mocha is generally quoted at 400 to 450 pesetas (\$72 to \$81), but its imports are slight compared with American coffees.

Porto Rican coffee shippers continue to ship to Barcelona on payment against bill of lading, while the Spanish coffee importers avoid these fixed sales and give preference to shipments on consignment. The procedure menaces this market for Porto Rican coffee, which, owing to a decided preference among the people for its flavor, should be among the best. Efforts by Porto Rican interests to cultivate and strengthen the demand for this coffee here are advisable, for at present the market is unsteady, shipments are irregular, and importers buy other coffee of inferior grades indiscriminately.

Falsification by Coffee Roasters.

One unfortunate feature is that the Spanish taste for real Porto Rican coffee, which is pronounced and makes good prices possible, is becoming vitiated through falsification. This falsification is chiefly practiced by the coffee roasters, who sell as roasted Porto Rican coffee some classes of Venezuelan and Colombian beans which closely resemble the Porto Rican bean in size. After roasting the substitution is difficult to detect on sight, although the quality is inferior. The people realize that Porto Rican coffee is expensive, but they prefer to have it and are willing to pay the price. It is unfortunate that the Porto Rican coffee grower is deprived of his due. If continued, the present practice may damage the time-honored reputation for flavor and aroma held by Porto Rican coffee in Spain.

In order to combat the chief dangers to Porto Rican coffee in this market—refusal to ship on consignment and substitutions for Porto Rican brands—radical measures should be adopted. Some suggestions may be made in behalf of the Porto Rican growers of coffee.

Tariff Revision Postponed Until After War.

The present Spanish customs duty on coffee in the bean, not roasted, of origin other than Fernando Poo, according to Group IV, paragraph 639, is 140 pesetas per 100 kilos. The Spanish customs tariff was to have been revised in 1917, but by a royal order this revision is now postponed until after the war.

There should be maintained at Barcelona an office to represent the interests of the Porto Rican coffee exporters. The person in charge should check frauds and adulteration, guarantee shipments, distribute samples, and give publicity to the fact that Porto Rican coffee is more than a mere name. The proposed agent should be a man of good standing, with a patriotic interest in the work intrusted to him, and one who is above any petty transactions. He should not be permitted to do any business on a commission basis, but should cultivate the good will of importers and the Spanish authorities.

Chief Duties for Proposed Office.

The chief duties of this office should be to facilitate regular shipments of the best three grades of Porto Rican coffee, amounting to 200 or 300 sacks, every fortnight. These shipments should be sent on consignment, after the office has investigated the standing of the consignees. Prices would be governed by the regular quotations for coffee on the bourse.

A constant watch should be kept over the coffee sold as Porto Rican, and all adulteration should be prosecuted immediately under the laws relating to the falsification of alimentary products, which provide that there shall be no misrepresentation of merchandise or attempt to deceive. To assist in the detection of fraud, Porto Rican exporters should invariably mark each sack clearly in Spanish, and it would be well if a Government officer could affix a seal at the port of shipment, authenticating the Porto Rican origin of the coffee. At the proposed Spanish office a register should be kept of the Porto Rican coffee growers, the names of their respective plantations, their situation, and any other data that would be of assistance. Information as to the standing and solvency of importers could also be supplied.

Would Avoid Intervention of Middlemen.

The proposed office would be able to place the Porto Rican coffee producer directly in touch with the Spanish merchant, avoiding the intervention of middlemen who now reap much of the profit. Such an office would have the additional advantage of creating a certain official guaranty as to the eventual disposition of the Porto Rican coffee crop, and protect the interests of the shipper in many ways.

The Spanish Government has granted Barcelona a free port, and Porto Rican coffee to be reshipped could be handled here eventually, if the coffee exporters found it advantageous.

When Porto Rican coffee can take its deserved place in this market and be put in a position to compete with other kinds, there is every reason to suppose that it will be demanded in greatly increased quantities. When coffee merchants find that no other coffee can be substituted, they will of necessity import larger quantities.

[Figures compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce show that the shipments of coffee from Porto Rico to Spain in 1915 amounted to 5,612 metric tons.]

SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Sept. 20.]

The city council has adopted a scheme for advertising the industrial advantages of Port Elizabeth. The electric power plant is owned by the municipality, and there is at present a surplus of power available which will be distinctly useful in any manufacturing industry requiring power. The scheme is quite simple and has two objects: First, to foster and improve existing industries by advertising them throughout the Union and in oversea countries; second, to establish new industries of every description suitable for Port Elizabeth, taking into consideration its advantages as a seaport where a very large proportion of imports are landed and at which great quantities of raw products are gathered for public-market sales and subsequent export.

The manufacture of boots, shoes, and saddlery is really an important industry. Nearly as many shoes are manufactured in Port Elizabeth at present as in all the rest of the Union of South Africa. These consist of medium-to-inferior grade shoes, and the quality is improving every year. Saddles and harness are manufactured to a fairly considerable extent, but the output will not equal the demand for many years to come. Port Elizabeth has four tanneries, and the tanning industry is in a flourishing condition. The publication "South African Commerce" states that information has been received to the effect that in some lines the Union of South Africa is now producing more leather than it actually requires for manufacturing purposes.

Flour Mills, Furniture Factories, Etc.—Municipal Encouragement.

There are four flour mills in Port Elizabeth, two of considerable importance. The wheat from which much of this flour is manufactured is imported. There is also a fairly large biscuit and jam factory in connection with one of these flour mills. The city has three furniture establishments, none of which would be considered of great importance if judged by the standard of American furniture factories, but they furnish employment for a very considerable number of men and turn out some very creditable and substantial furniture. There are one or two manufacturers of ice, several of aerated water, a foundry or two, small engineering works, garages, small cigar and cigarette factories, laundries, and various small industries incidental to a city.

A committee has been formed from the city council to promote new enterprises and to draw attention to the facilities offered to manufacturers. These facilities consist of (1) raw materials, such as wool, mohair, hides and skins, ostrich feathers, salt, fruit and vegetables, and a limited amount of timber; (2) such facilities as electrical power and light give, plentiful water supply, and drainage; (3) factory sites, both municipal and private; (4) fairly plentiful labor supply, mostly unskilled, but at a low rate of wages; (5) excellent transit and distributing facilities—a free port for both import and export trade, and excellent railway connections for all up-country centers and coast ports. A descriptive booklet will be issued in the near future and copies will be available without cost for American inquirers. For further particulars address the Manager of the Electricity and Industry Department, Post Office Box 369, Port Elizabeth, Cape Province, South Africa.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Heifers, No. 3818.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., until December 1, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 1,500 heifers for the Crow Indian Agency, Mont. Specifications may be had on application to the Superintendent of the Crow Indian Agency, Crow Agency, Mont.

Charter of launch, No. 3819.—Sealed proposals will be received by the commanding officer, Coast and Geodetic Survey Steamer *Hydrographer*, Gulfport, Miss., until November 25, 1916, for the charter of a launch for surveying purposes along the coast of Mississippi Sound. Further information may be had on application to the commanding officer at the above address.

Post-office construction, No. 3820.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Maquoketa, Iowa. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or from the above-named office.

Medical supplies, No. 3821.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until November 23, 1916, for furnishing 600 pounds oleum theobromatis in bulk. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Sea-wall construction, No. 3822.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Room 802, Army Building, 39 Whitehall Street, New York, N. Y., until December 1, 1916, for the construction of timber groins and repair of sea wall near the southern boundary of Sandy Hook Reservation, N. J. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3823.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 28, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Nacogdoches, Tex. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the custodian of the site or at the above-named office.

Medical supplies, No. 3824.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until November 27, 1916, for furnishing and delivering salvarsan and neosalvarsan. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Marine oil engine, No. 3825.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until December 16, 1916, for one 150-horsepower marine oil engine and one hoisting engine. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Corks, No. 3826.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until November 24, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at the Field Medical Supply Depot, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., 15,000 extra long best quality No. 7 corks, and 1,000 extra long best quality No. 2 corks packed in bleached muslin bags. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Tape, No. 3827.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until December 1, 1916, for 1,500 pounds of friction tape and 2,000 pounds rubber tape. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office. (Refer to Proposal No. 890.)

Turkeys, No. 3828.—Sealed proposals will be received at office of the Quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 24, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before November 27, 1916, 390 pounds of fresh turkey for Fort Leavenworth, Kans.; 1,525 pounds turkey for U. S. D. B., Fort Leavenworth, Kans.; 400 pounds turkey for Fort Riley, Kans.; 500 pounds of lard for Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and 500 pounds of bacon for Fort Riley, Kans. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural machinery-----	23074	Machinery, for straw covers-----	23075
Burlap cloth-----	23068	Motors-----	23073
Cutlery and razors-----	23071	Notions-----	23071
Enameled ware-----	23070	Pitchforks-----	23070
Jewelry-----	23071	Pots-----	23077
Kitchen utensils-----	23070	Scythes-----	23070
Locks-----	23070	Shoe laces, hooks and eyes-----	23072
Machinery-----	23074	Shovels-----	23070
Machinery, bottling-----	23069	Slate pencils-----	23076
Machinery, threshing, hand-----	23075	Wire for shoe tacks-----	23070

23068.*—A firm in Peru is in the market for 400 pieces of burlap cloth, 100 yards each, 1 meter in width. Quotations are desired by cable. Payment to be made in cash f. o. b. New York, or if possible c. i. f. destination. Sample of the cloth may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81783.) Correspondence in English.

23069.*—An export house on the Pacific Coast has inquiries from Russia for soda-water bottling machinery and cap-sealing machinery.

23070.†—A firm in Spain wishes to receive descriptive literature and quotations, f. o. b. New York, on scythes, stating commission allowed. The firm is also in the market for 20 to 30 tons of reheated wire for making shoe tacks, and desires to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of pitchforks, padlocks and locks of all kinds, shovels, metal kitchen utensils, and enameled ware.

23071.†—An established manufacturer's agent desires to represent American manufacturers of cheap razors, cutlery, jewelry, and notions, in Venezuela and the West Indies. References.

23072.*—A firm in Norway is in the market for shoe laces, and hooks and eyes for shoes. Correspondence in English. References.

23073.‡—A commission agent in Greece wishes to get in touch with manufacturers of motors, 3 H. P. to 15 H. P.

23074.*—A firm in the Netherlands desires to act as agent on a commission basis, and possibly as a buyer on his own account later on, for American manufacturers of agricultural and other machinery. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23075.†—A commission merchant in Brazil desires quotations, f. o. b. New York, on 500 hand-threshing machines for wheat, the straw to be conserved in first-class condition for manufacturing purposes. Selling commission should be stated. Quotations are also desired on machines for making 30,000 straw jackets for beer bottles a day. These machines must be made to sew two or three rows of stitching as required; if capacity is only 5,000 per day, then six machines are necessary. To go with these machines others are required to tie straw jackets at the top, unless there are machines which will turn out the complete jacket in one operation. Bank credit in New York will be provided. Correspondence in English. References.

23076.*—A firm in the United Kingdom is in the market for 200 gross slate pencils, in cedar or other wood, about 7 inches in length.

23077.*—A firm in Central America desires to purchase for immediate delivery, 300 to 400 cast-iron "English" pots (without balls), light pattern, sizes 1 to 20 gallons. References. Correspondence in English.

ALASKA RADIO STATION DISCONTINUED.

The radio station that was installed and operated by the United States Lighthouse Service at Cape St. Elias Light Station, Alaska, during the construction of that station (call letters NLQ), was discontinued for an indefinite period on November 9, 1916.

DEC 2 1916
 PRINCETON N J

COMMERCE REPORTS



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 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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AUSTRALASIAN WOOL EXPORTS.

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Oct. 16.]

Statistics showing Australasian wool exports from July 1 to September 30, 1916, as compared with those for the corresponding period last year, have been compiled by Dalgety & Co. The figures are as follows:

State.	1915-16	1916-17
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Victoria	27,882	17,889
New South Wales	172,059	76,182
Queensland	78,451	86,408
South Australia	6,253	5,423
Western Australia	8,726	4,427
Tasmania	70	670
Commonwealth	293,441	193,994
New Zealand	43,244	77,121
Australasia	336,685	271,115

The net decrease is 65,570 bales. As considerable quantities of wool grown in some States are shipped from others, the figures do not show actual production but total oversea shipments.

[The Australian wool bale ranges in weight from 320 to 335 pounds.]

ITALIAN TRADE MISSION TO RUSSIA.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 9.]

The British embassy at Rome reports that as a first step toward the execution of the program to develop commercial relations between Italy and Russia the Italian Ministries of Commerce and Foreign Affairs are assisting in the organization of a commercial mission composed of a limited number of experts in the branches of trade chiefly concerned. This mission is to visit the most important centers of the Russian Empire and to place itself in direct contact with commercial circles there in order to study and devise practical measures for a further development of the system of exchanges between the two countries after the war.

CARGO SERVICE FROM NEW YORK TO HOBART.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Tasmania, Oct. 7.]

The Luckenbach Steamship Co., of New York and San Francisco, has started a monthly service of cargo vessels from New York to Australasia and return via the Panama Canal. As it was appreciated that it would be a great incentive to the export of American goods to this State if some of these vessels should make Hobart a port of call, the writer communicated with the representative of the company in Australasia, calling his attention to the tonnage prospect offered here. Accordingly the representative advises that one of the company's boats will leave New York direct for Hobart late in November, and another will follow probably three months later, and if sufficient patronage is given to justify it the service would be continued. As Mr. Ebey, the representative of the company in Australasia, said that it would require 1,000 tons a trip to justify a boat to call here, there is ample tonnage if shippers would avail themselves of this direct service. If the local importers had complete charge of shipments there would be no question as to the patronage, as they are favorable to the direct service and are anxious to assist so far as they are able; but a great deal of the tonnage for this port is controlled by the American exporters, and while the local buyers can indicate a preference for a certain line they have no authority in the matter.

The tonnage of such a direct service should increase as time passes as it will deliver goods here from New York in 45 or 50 days, while now it is not uncommon for importers to have to wait six months for goods on account of delays in transshipment, and recently goods were often delayed 12 months or more.

[A report on the Luckenbach shipping service with Australasia was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 11, 1916.]

NEW SWEDISH CANAL OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

[The Economist (London, England), Nov. 4.]

The Trolhattan Canal, which was opened last week, forms part of the Göta Canal system of Sweden, connecting the Skagerrak at Goteborg with the Baltic at Söderköping. The value of canals was perceived in Sweden earlier than in any other European country; but, unfortunately, their construction for the most part took place before the introduction of seagoing iron freight steamers, and they can accommodate only vessels of moderate dimensions—the limit of draft on the Göta Canal system having been hitherto slightly over 9 feet. But Sweden is now tending to become not only a great exporter of raw materials, but a great manufacturing country, by virtue of the electric power afforded by its waterfalls, of which Trolhatta stands first, so that improved access from the ocean to its interior ports is becoming more important than ever. For some seven years, therefore, work has been in progress on the Göta Canal system, and it is to be deepened to 16 feet and correspondingly widened, so that it will take barges, and even seagoing freighters, of some size. Factories are expected to spring up along its course and to utilize the electric power of its feeders, which belong to the State.

OCTOBER FIGURES OF FOREIGN TRADE.

October statistics of foreign trade announced to-day by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, indicate a continuation of the remarkable activity noted for earlier months, with imports slightly larger and exports slightly less than those of September, while exports in October, 1916, are far in excess of those for any preceding October.

The month's exports totaled \$490,600,000, a recession of \$24,400,000 from the high record made in September. They are, however, 46 per cent more than the total of \$336,200,000 for October, 1915, and 150 per cent in excess of the total for October, 1914, which was \$194,700,000. The year which ended with October last gave an export total of \$5,128,000,000, compared with \$3,319,000,000 for 1914-15 and \$2,141,000,000 for 1913-14.

October imports aggregated \$176,400,000, an increase of \$12,400,000 over September. October, 1915, gave a total of \$149,200,000, and October, 1914, \$138,100,000. Twelve months' imports amounted to \$2,335,000,000 for the period ending with October, 1916, as against \$1,692,000,000 last year and \$1,880,000,000 two years ago.

Of the October imports, 64.7 per cent entered free of duty, as against 71 per cent in October, 1915.

The month's export balance was \$314,200,000, compared with \$187,000,000 in October, 1915, and \$56,600,000 in October, 1914. The aggregate excess of exports over imports for the 12 months to October, 1916, was \$2,793,200,000, as against \$1,626,800,000 last year and \$260,400,000 two years ago.

October showed a net inward gold movement of \$90,500,000 and the 12 months a net inward gold movement of \$469,800,000. Last year the excess of imports over exports of gold was \$76,700,000 for the month and \$326,500,000 for the year; while two years ago gold exports exceeded gold imports by \$44,400,000 for October and by \$167,200,000 for the 12 months. Gold imports during October, 1916, were \$97,500,000, against \$79,700,000 in October, 1915, and \$5,900,000 in October, 1914; while for 12 months they were \$586,800,000 in 1915-16, compared with \$357,100,000 last year and \$58,000,000 two years ago. Gold exports were \$7,000,000 in October, 1916, as against \$2,900,000 in October, 1915, and \$50,300,000 in October, 1914; while for the 12 months they aggregated \$117,000,000, compared with \$30,500,000 last year and \$225,200,000 two years ago.

The nation's foreign trade during the year which ended with October, 1916, reached the total of \$7,463,000,000, as compared with \$5,012,000,000 in 1915 and \$4,021,000,000 in 1914. This statement does not take into consideration the commercial movement of gold and silver, which aggregated for the 12 months under review \$802,474,000.

Cement Tile Factory in Guatemala.

The "Australia" plantation, situated in El Tumbador, Department of San Marcos, Guatemala, has just established a factory for making cement blocks or tiles. Centro America states that these tiles, which are called locally "canefas," are square and colored, being adapted especially for use in reception halls, bathrooms, and similar places.

STREET-CLEANING AND OTHER DEVICES FOR CHILE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Oct. 26.]

The board for the administration of the municipal loan, Antofagasta, is asking for proposals, to be opened December 16, for one automotor to flush and clean streets and two automotors for the collection of garbage.

The following additional information, showing what is desired in the way of garbage wagons, may be of interest: Horsepower should not be less than 25; gear drive instead of chain drive; wheel base not over 4 meters (157.48 inches); maximum speed, 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) per hour, with three forward speeds and one reverse; carburetor to permit use of gasoline and cheap petroleum distillates as fuel; box of light material, so that it can be operated mechanically from seat of chauffeur, dumping backward; the top edge of the box not over 2 meters (78.74 inches) from the ground.

The requirements of attachment of 5-peso revenue stamp and the accompanying of the bid by bank certificates of deposit of 1,000 pesos each indicate the necessity of having local representatives. This report is forwarded with a view to calling attention to the desirability of having able local representation. Representatives in the country would be of special advantage where materials and machinery are desired for governmental or municipal purposes; in fact, are essential in order to comply with legal details surrounding preparation of bids, etc. Throughout the country a great number of such opportunities occur each year, and it is probable that Santiago, the capital city, would be the best location for a representative of manufacturers of such articles.

ALL CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED FOR "BRITISH DYES, LTD."

[J. F. Butler, secretary to commercial attaché, London, Nov. 3.]

According to the Manchester Guardian, all of the capital stock of the Government-aided British Dyes (Ltd.) has now been subscribed. In a recent issue of that journal it was stated:

British Dyes (Ltd.) set out in March of last year to get £2,000,000, in £1 shares [\$9,733,000 in shares of \$4.87 each], and a proportionate sum from the Government added, in payment for debentures. The number of shares on which the directors went to allotment was 630,000, and only 5s. [\$1.22] was paid up on each. At the end of April last the nominal capital issued had increased to £1,851,914 [\$9,012,340], and at the shareholders' meeting this month it was reported to be £1,976,342 [\$9,617,868]. Since then, it appears, the remaining unallotted shares of the original issue have been disposed of, and the company will have a capital of £2,000,000 when it is able to use that sum to advantage.

The Government's undertaking was to advance £1 against every similar sum in subscribed share capital up to a total of £1,000,000, and when that figure had been passed, £1 (up to a maximum of £500,000) for every £4 of further share capital subscribed, but no part of this additional advance was to be made until the whole of the first million of share capital had been called up. That period has not yet arrived, but as the Government had advanced £854,550 [\$4,158,065] on April 30, the date when the accounts were last made up, it is safe to assume that the loan has since been made up to £1,000,000. The Government has received the 4 per cent due as interest on its investment, and the shareholders have had 6 per cent, which will remain the maximum as long as any part of the public loan remains in the concern.

[Among other references to the formation of this dye company that appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* were the articles in the issues for Jan. 7, Feb. 13, and May 5, 1915.]

DYESTUFF FIGURES MADE PUBLIC.

The much-debated dyestuff census prepared by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, of the Department of Commerce, made its appearance to-day. It is a careful enumeration of the dyes imported into this country from Europe during the year preceding the war and is published to assist American manufacturers in estimating the normal demand for each individual color. The extent to which most colors have been used in this country has in the past been known only to the importers of the foreign product.

The American dyestuff manufacturer can judge from the published report just how much of each color was consumed in this country in a normal year. This will enable him to meet demands approximately without wasting time experimenting. One large eastern dye maker has already announced that an examination of the proofs of the census has enabled his firm to save a million dollars and a year of misdirected effort.

It is now generally admitted that any intelligent effort to build up a comprehensive, self-contained American coal-tar chemical industry must rest upon the solid foundations of accurate statistical data concerning the American market for artificial colors. In no other way can the creators of such an industry avoid duplication, overlapping, waste, and blundering, tentative struggles to adjust productive mechanism to a vague, indefinite demand. Without such data the future industry will be heavily handicapped by permanent overhead charges. In the dyestuff census the Government has gathered together the statistics needed.

The title of the report is "Artificial Dyestuffs Used in the United States," Special Agents' Series No. 121. It contains 219 pages of statistical matter and in addition an elaborate index. Copies can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at 50 cents each.

NEW DEEP-WATER PORT AT BREST, FRANCE.

Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz has forwarded details of a project for the creation of a new port at Brest, France, as worked out by Mr. Lebrun-Desoie, a Parisian engineer. Mr. Lebrun-Desoie has prepared a prospectus (in French), consisting of 19 typewritten pages and line drawings and a 4-page supplement thereto, accompanied by 2 blue prints of the proposed work. These documents may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 2003. Mr. Lebrun-Desoie suggests that his project should be of especial interest to both American and French coal, oil, mining, and navigation companies, and to public contractors and suppliers of railway materials as well.

AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES IN JAVA.

Consul B. S. Rairden reports from Batavia, Dutch East Indies, that of the 759 automobiles imported into Java for the first six months of 1916, 668 cars came from the United States, 53 from Italy, and 32 from the Netherlands.

PLANS FOR UTILIZING BONE FERTILIZER FROM PRIBILOFS.

Since the Department of Commerce announced that large bone deposits had been found to be available on the Pribilof Islands, interest in their utilization has been shown by numerous individuals and firms throughout the United States. As these deposits represent the accumulation of a century or more, and constitute probably the largest known bone deposits in the world, their value for fertilizing purposes has been recognized, and correspondence addressed to the United States Bureau of Fisheries has been conducted with the object of establishing the terms under which contracts might be made for supplies of this material from the Government reservation. The bureau has issued a letter on the subject addressed to such inquirers, and within five days has received several replies expressing continued great interest. The bureau's statement is as follows:

Letter Addressed to Interested Firms.

Referring to correspondence with the Department of Commerce in which you have manifested an interest in the announcement regarding deposits of bones on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, you are advised that preliminary reports indicate that there are at least 5,000 tons in sight on the surface of deposits on St. Paul Island and 1,000 tons on St. George Island. In order that these, and other presumably much larger, deposits may be used, this office is sending this letter to interested persons and will receive and carefully consider suggestions for the exploitation of the deposits under the general conditions hereinafter specified. The following alternate methods of procedure appear to be open:

1. The private contractor to assume the entire responsibility and expense of taking and shipping the bones as they lie, paying the Government a stipulated price per ton.
2. The contractor to receive the bones as delivered by the Government (a) on shore or (b) alongside the vessel, and pay the Government a stipulated price per ton.
3. The contractor to receive the bones from vessels alongside the dock at Seattle or other port and pay a stipulated price per ton.

Landing Facilities Only by Small Boats.

In considering this matter, prospective contractors should understand that weather conditions are such that it is often difficult or impossible to effect a landing on the islands for several days at a time even during summer. There are no protected harbors and no landing facilities other than by means of small boats. It is necessary for vessels to anchor from one-half to three-fourths of a mile offshore. This means that the contractor must consider the necessity for lighters for transferring cargo. In the landing of Government supplies from ships it has been customary to use almost wholly large native skin boats, or bidarrahs, approximately 40 feet in length and capable of carrying about 5 tons. Flat-bottom scows of similar carrying capacity were introduced successfully in 1916.

It should be borne in mind that if laborers or other persons are landed by the contractor it will be necessary to provide separate housing facilities and arrangements for subsistence, for the reason that after many years the department has succeeded in bringing the health of the native community to a very satisfactory condition, and any persons landed on the island as indicated must be segregated in order that there may be no possibility of introducing or communicating disease. In regard to a working force, a considerable amount of native labor would be available for contractors on either island except for a few weeks in summer when the major sealing operations are in progress. There are about 40 laborers on St. Paul Island and about 20 on St. George Island. Their services for ordinary labor would be worth from 25 to 30 cents per hour. The contractor would be expected to make use of this labor.

Source for Coal and Other Supplies.

There are no facilities for obtaining coal or other supplies nearer than Unalaska, approximately 250 miles distant. The Government maintains small

stores on St. Paul and St. George Islands which are run solely for the benefit of the natives, and no Government supplies would be available except for natives and Government representatives.

The Pribilof Islands are a special Government reservation, and all work of the contractor would be subject to the general regulations governing the islands. The agent in charge of each island would see that these regulations were faithfully observed. The chief points involved would be (a) the strict enforcement of the regulation prohibiting the landing of intoxicating liquors, (b) the absolute prevention of traffic in fur-seal and fox skins, and (c) entire noninterference with the seal rookeries at all times. During the height of the sealing season there may be brief periods when it would be impossible to permit the digging up of bones on some of the killing fields, though this is a matter which will have to be regulated and governed by conditions obtaining at the time.

The bones are found in quantities only on the killing fields, which are smooth, grassy, level areas adjacent to the rookeries. The transportation of the bones on the islands presents some difficulties. One of the killing grounds on St. Paul is upward of 12 miles from the village, where it is customary for vessels to anchor. It would be practicable, however, for ships to anchor on the opposite side of the island near this killing ground, although on account of its more exposed position there are fewer days of weather favorable for landing than at the village. Transportation by wagon to the village is practicable.

Possibility of Using Light Motor Trucks.

It is thought that in the case of St. Paul Island light motor trucks can be used to advantage, though the roads are quite sandy in places. One of the most important killing grounds is near the village, and the transportation problem in this case is simple. On St. George Island the important killing grounds are not far from the village.

Persons interested in securing contracts to develop these bone deposits should consider the possibility of making arrangements with the department for utilizing the remains of seals hereafter killed annually in accordance with law. After their pelts are removed and the choicer parts of the meat are taken by the natives for food, the remainder of the carcass is available for conversion into fertilizer, oil, chicken feed, etc., and it is the intention of the department to have proper steps taken to utilize such by-products. A rough basis for determining the amount of raw material available is to allow 50,000 pounds per 1,000 seals.

If you are seriously interested in this matter the department will, on request, forward to you a small sample of bones (say 50 pounds) from the deposits in question. I request the favor of a response as soon as practicable, and in any event not later than December 1. [Replies from the Pacific coast were requested by December 10.]

A description of the Pribilof bone deposits was given in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for February 21, 1916. Statistics of imports of bone fertilizer into the United States were given in the issue of March 14, 1916.

NEW ANTIMONY DEPOSIT OPENED UP IN SOUTH AFRICA.

According to the South African press a new body of antimony has been opened up near the Komati River in the district of the Steynsdorp gold fields, Transvaal. A mining company has considered experiments in connection with this ore sufficiently promising to justify the undertaking of smelting operations on the spot. Three shafts have been sunk to a depth of 50 feet, and open workings connect up two to a depth of 25 feet. Ore is continuous throughout. A furnace capable of smelting 10 tons of ore per day has been designed, and it is said that there is sufficient ore in sight to keep the furnace running while development work proceeds. The Board of Trade Journal states that the price for the metal locally is about 85 cents a pound.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

ARGENTINA.

[Boletín Oficial, Aug. 11.]

Classification of Crown Corks.

According to an Argentine customs decision published August 11, 1916, bottle tops of tin plate, with lining of cork or of thick, water-proof paper, are to be dutiable as articles not specified in the tariff at 27 per cent ad valorem (inclusive of surtax).

BRAZIL.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 28.]

Probable Change in Brazilian Customs Duties.

The Finance Committee of the Federal Chamber of Deputies has decided to recommend that during the fiscal year 1917 the proportion of import duty payable on a gold basis be fixed at 55 per cent, instead of 40 per cent, as prescribed by the present regulations. There is every probability that this recommendation will be adopted both by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and will be incorporated in the budget law of 1917. [The effect of this proposed change is discussed in COMMERCE REPORTS for November 6, 1916.] It has also been decided by the Finance Committee that increased consumption taxes will be levied on tobacco, beverages, matches, shoes, and hats, and that new consumption taxes will be imposed on roasted coffee and on butter.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

[Consul William L. Avery, Oct. 20.]

Export Prohibition on Mahogany.

The following notice is contained in the Gazette Extraordinary of October 17, 1916:

"... Exporters of mahogany are hereby informed that no licenses to export mahogany will be given except in very exceptional circumstances until the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been received and that it is unlikely that any such approval will be given except in the case of mahogany exported for the use of His Majesty's Government. It is anticipated that all the mahogany of first-rate quality cut in the colony will be purchased."

It is stated that vessels now chartered and bound for Belize for the purpose of transporting mahogany to the United States may be permitted to load their cargoes, but there is no certainty that a license will be granted for such shipments. Nearly all the mahogany exported from British Honduras during the present year was destined for the United States and the value of such exports shipped from January 1 to October 15, 1916, is estimated at \$371,085.

CHILE.

Proposed Export Duty on Copper.

Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, has submitted a report regarding the bill introduced in the Chilean Chamber of Deputies August 18, 1916, providing for export duties on copper in bars, matte, or ore, graduated according to the price prevailing in New York and London. A copy of this report, which quotes the proposed rates on the various grades of copper, will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

ITALY.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, Sept. 27.]

Classification of Typewriter Ribbons.

The tariff classification of typewriter ribbons imported into Italy depends upon whether the articles are woven as ribbons or woven in broad pieces, which are subsequently cut into strips of proper size. In the former case the goods would be dutiable under tariff No. 171, while ribbons proper would be classified under No. 182 of the Italian customs tariff.

[The duty under No. 182 is 100 lire per 100 kilos, while the rates specified under No. 171 are 109 and 125 lire per 100 kilos. The lower rate is applicable to fabrics weighing 13 kilos or more per 100 square meters, fabrics weighing from 7 to 13 kilos per 100 square meters being dutiable at 125 lire per 100 kilos (lire, \$0.193; kilo, 2.2046 pounds).]

MEXICO.

New Customs Tariff.

The new customs tariff of Mexico, in effect November 1, 1916 (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 27, 1916), follows closely the arrangement of the former tariff. Changes have been made in the duties applicable to a large number of articles, however, the new rates of duty being approximately equal in most cases to the former rates as increased by the general surtax of 10 per cent, which is now consolidated with the regular duties. The level of duties has been raised somewhat, but the increases apparently do not average over 10 per cent of the former rates. Fancy articles, such as jewelry, perfumery, and high-grade clothing, are subject to considerably higher rates, while reductions have been made in the duties applicable to many articles of general consumption, including certain fabrics and clothing and most foodstuffs. Agricultural implements, tools of trade, articles for use in printing and lithography, common wood for building, certain paper, corn, wheat, fodder, and coal are among the few products included in the free list.

[As announced in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 31 and Nov. 3, 1916, certain food products are to be admitted free for the present, and temporary special reductions in the duties on certain clothing have been proposed. A translation of the new Mexican tariff will be issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in the near future. In the meantime information regarding the new rates on specified articles will be furnished upon application to that Bureau.]

NEW ZEALAND.

Prohibition of Importation of Soap.

Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, has transmitted a copy of the New Zealand Gazette Extraordinary for September 18, 1916, which contains a notice prohibiting the importation into New Zealand of soap manufactured in or exported from any country other than the United Kingdom and British colonies and possessions.

[A similar prohibition now in effect in Australia was announced in *Commerce Reports* for Sept. 22, 1916.]

PERU.

Proposed Export Duty on Petroleum Products.

Commercial Attaché W. L. Montavon, Lima, has submitted an interesting report dealing with a bill recently presented to the Peruvian

Congress by the Minister of Finance, authorizing an export duty on crude petroleum, lubricating oils, benzine, gasoline, kerosene, and other distillates of petroleum. The chances for the adoption of this bill, perhaps with a few modifications, appear to be favorable. A copy of the report, which specifies the proposed rates, will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

SWITZERLAND.

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Sept. 21.]

Temporary Reduction on Frozen Meat.

In response to a petition of the Affiliated Consumers' Association, the Swiss Federal Council, by a decree of September 16, 1916, authorized a temporary reduction in the import duty on frozen meat from 25 to 10 francs per 100 kilos (from \$2.19 to \$0.875 per 100 pounds).

[A similar reduction was in effect from June 1, 1912, to Mar. 26, 1914, as reported in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 14, p. 20.]

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Sept. 27.]

Charges on Exports.

In order to cover expenses incidental to the control of exports, the Swiss Government is imposing dues ranging from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 5 per cent ad valorem upon articles exported from Switzerland. These fees in many instances are very high and have caused some complaint among American importers. Practically every article is subject to a different charge and goods of high value, such as chemicals, for instance, are heavily taxed. The tax on pharmaceutical products and chemicals is from 2 to 5 per cent ad valorem, according to the product, and that on dyestuffs is 2 per cent ad valorem. Goods are taxed by weight, by value, by carload, and by measurement.

Cheese is taxed at the rate of 3,000 francs per carload of 10 metric tons (metric ton, 2,204.6 pounds), and matches are subject to about the same rate.

No printed schedules of these taxes are available and such information is given only on special request.

American importers desiring information concerning these charges must indicate specifically the article in which they are interested before consular officers will be able to make intelligent inquiries.

PARIS FAIR IN 1917.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, France, Oct. 14.]

A fair, known under the title of "La Foire de Paris," will be held in Paris from May 1 to 15, 1917. Its object is to afford French manufacturers an opportunity to show samples of their wares to local and foreign buyers, no foreign exhibitors being admitted. It is held under the auspices of the municipal and departmental authorities. The fair will occupy the Esplanade des Invalides, in front of the Invalides, and the avenues and adjacent quays along the River Seine.

[A preliminary notice relating to the fair, in the form of a 15-page pamphlet printed in French, may be inspected by those interested at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 81983.]

A NEW ARGENTINE DYE MATERIAL.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 28.]

A joint stock company has been formed in Argentina for the exploitation of the new dye material "Algarrobin," obtained from the wood of the carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*), and a factory has been established in the city of Santa Fé, Province of Santa Fé, which now has a daily production of 6 to 8 tons of "Algarrobin," put up and ready for shipment. The material is now in regular industrial use, and is said to be giving good results, in addition to proving itself economical in comparison with other dye materials. One local concern, the Sociedad Italo-Americano, is said to be using 3,307 to 4,409 pounds of "Algarrobin" monthly, chiefly in dyeing khaki cloth for Argentine military uniforms. It is also said that 66,139 pounds of the product have been shipped to Italy and France, and that additional requests are coming in in consequence of the satisfactory and economical results given by the dye. The manufacturers claim that, although cotton takes the "Algarrobin" successfully, exceptionally good results are obtained in the treatment of silk and wool.

Possesses Valuable Dyeing Properties.

Algarrobin possesses valuable dyeing properties. The fastness of the dye to fulling, light, washing, etc., is notable, as is also the uniformity of tone. These qualities, added to its moderate cost, will render it of value to dyers. Algarrobin, alone, imparts a light-brown color to any textile fiber, cotton, wool, silk, etc. These colors are fixed by appropriate mordants, according to the shades desired. There is a great variety of methods of employing the dyestuff, and it will be easy for a dyer, with a little practice, to obtain all the tints he requires. In combination with vegetable extracts, such as fustic, hypernic, logwood, etc., it gives a number of varied and fast colors. It is very suitable as a base for dyeing with coal-tar colors and by its use an economy of 50 to 90 per cent of the artificial colors employed can be attained.

For the loading of silk and wool it is superior to all materials now currently used, both in regard to increase in weight and to the mechanical properties of the dyed wares.

As the manufacturing company has not yet been officially registered in Argentina, all inquiries regarding this new dye material should be addressed for the present to Supervielle & Co., bankers, section of dyestuffs, Buenos Aires, Argentina, who are acting as the financial agents of the company.

[The Algarrobin extract, samples of yarns dyed with it, and detailed instructions on the processes of dyeing cotton, silk, and wool by means of the extract, may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81553.]

CHILD-WELFARE PUBLICATIONS WANTED.

The State Department has received a request from Dr. Arthur Moncorvo Filho, founder of the Instituto de Protecção e Assistência á Infancia, at 22 Rua Visconde do Rio Branco, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that institutions of the same kind in the United States be asked to exchange publications with him. The Instituto is a humanitarian organization for the protection, from a hygienic and social standpoint, of poor children by the establishment of dispensaries and hospitals, creches, kindergartens, schools, social centers, etc.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana....	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Donaldson, Chester.....	Port Limon, Costa Rica.	Nov. 26	31 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkersford, Amherst County, Va.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany....	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Tendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay....	Dec. 1	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark..	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon....	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

TOBACCO AND WINE TAXATION DISCUSSED BY CHINESE.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Sept. 15.]

Chinese tobacco and wine merchants at Shanghai have formed a union to deal with the question of taxes as a result of the policy of the Government in recent years to establish monopolies in these trades. The "wine" referred to is the native liquor made from various cereals. Foreign tobacco and liquors are not subject to these impositions, and as the import duties are light the dealers in the native products feel themselves at a disadvantage.

A general meeting of the union has been held, and the chairman offered to go to Peking at his own expense to lay the views of the members before the Government.

SAMPLE OF MEXICAN HENEQUEN FIBER.

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce has forwarded a sample of henequen fiber grown in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, which it has been informed can be obtained in large quantities. This sample may be inspected by interested American fiber users at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or any of its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 167. Under the same file number may be obtained from the offices mentioned the address of the grower of the henequen.

CANADA'S TRADE IN FLAX PRODUCTS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Oct. 27.]

The Dominion Government has published a bulletin called "Flax for fiber; its cultivation and handling" (Bulletin No. 28, 2nd series, Experiment Farm at Ottawa, written by J. Adams, assistant Dominion botanist, who was formerly associated with the flax industry in Ireland). This new publication will interest readers of Special Agents Series No. 122, "Development of an American Flax Industry," issued by the Department of Commerce at Washington. [Copies of this latter monograph may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from any of the branch offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; price, 5 cents.]

One Canadian writer says: "The possibilities of producing flax for fiber in Canada have been proved to be very considerable." He urges its cultivation now when "unusually high prices will serve as an impetus to its development and extension." The latest Government estimate of the crop of flax in Canada for 1916 is 7,759,500 bushels from 710,000 acres.

Exports of Flax and Tow.

At the time of the 1911 census of Canadian manufactures there were in the Dominion 30 establishments where flax was dressed, representing a total capital of \$421,389. They employed 1,085 wage earners and used materials that cost \$250,510. The value of their output in that year was \$548,559. Of linen mills there were three, with a combined capital of \$334,000 and a force of 122 hands. The cost of the materials used in 1911 was \$107,000; the value of the output, \$299,000.

The Dominion's production of flax fiber is not such as to permit of a large export trade. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1914, the domestic flax, hemp, and tow exported amounted in value to \$49,826; in 1915, to \$36,177; in 1916, to \$89,532. The United States absorbed practically all of these cargoes, the United Kingdom being the other chief purchaser. The shipments for the last three fiscal years follow:

Flax, hemp, and tow.	1914		1915		1916	
	Domestic.	Foreign.	Domestic.	Foreign.	Domestic.	Foreign.
Total exports.....	\$49,826	.....	\$36,177	\$2,090	\$89,532	\$11,449
To United Kingdom.....	.....	.....	7,022	.....	15,232	8,715
To United States.....	49,826	.....	29,155	2,090	74,300	2,734

Classes and Sources of Imports.

The domestic production of linen goods falls far short of meeting the Dominion's demands; but as the imports of linen manufactures are combined in the official statistics with those of hemp and jute in such a manner that it is not always possible to separate them, the exact value of Canada's yearly purchases of foreign flax fiber and linen textiles can not be stated. An idea of the extent of this trade, however, may be gained from a study of the official import returns of

"flax, hemp, jute, and manufactures of," which for the last three fiscal years have been:

Flax, hemp, jute, and manufactures of.	1914	1915	1916
Bags or sacks (dutiable).....	\$294,757	\$241,918	\$317,675
United Kingdom.....	80,911	45,826	26,245
United States.....	87,695	102,763	228,053
British East Indies.....	128,319	93,169	61,192
Carpeting, rugs, and matting of hemp or jute (dutiable).....	63,392	40,983	29,056
United Kingdom.....	40,835	32,797	17,212
United States.....	9,423	3,105	5,361
Japan.....	6,452	3,080	6,330
Clothing of linen (dutiable).....	24,088	12,127	9,880
United Kingdom.....	11,844	6,734	4,271
United States.....	9,150	4,088	4,975
Hamask, linen, in the piece, tablecloths, napkins, pillow cases, sheets, etc. (dutiable).....	1,030,424	823,352	594,298
United Kingdom.....	896,800	761,296	551,394
United States.....	8,695	9,913	6,988
France.....	24,779	10,711	3,033
Germany.....	36,062	11,946	.....
Japan.....	46,230	20,453	16,338
Fabrics:			
Brown or bleached (dutiable).....	128,073	118,112	108,240
United Kingdom.....	114,380	115,214	106,372
United States.....	4,176	2,249	1,902
Canvas for ships' sails (dutiable).....	21,266	6,627	1,067
United Kingdom.....	19,722	5,561	1,061
United States.....	911	1,066	.....
Jute canvas as taken from the loom (free).....	2,092,703	468,011	.....
United Kingdom.....	1,268,284	276,490	.....
United States.....	48,844	389	.....
British East Indies.....	736,685	190,622	.....
Jute cloth as taken from the loom (free).....	2,746,493	963,025	430,756
United Kingdom.....	718,798	332,950	228,507
United States.....	164,433	95,466	114,080
British East Indies.....	1,859,783	533,494	98,189
Jute cloth or canvas, partly finished (dutiable).....	11,790	1,630,794	4,103,744
United Kingdom.....	6,212	515,291	855,263
United States.....	4,754	450,746	998,242
British East Indies.....	.....	665,511	2,256,219
Printed, dyed, or colored, n. e. s. (dutiable).....	42,916	49,908	18,885
United Kingdom.....	39,765	45,801	14,894
United States.....	2,654	3,262	4,791
Tailors' holland of linen and toweling in the web (dutiable).....	201,711	228,498	221,774
United Kingdom.....	200,227	225,463	215,432
United States.....	494	2,815	6,348
Unbleached, n. e. s. (dutiable).....	420,798	331,056	305,244
United Kingdom.....	391,536	292,304	283,539
United States.....	25,529	37,771	19,705
Flax fiber, flax tow, and fibrilla (free).....	32,798	14,806	29,030
United Kingdom.....	19,959	7,770	19,698
United States.....	2,502	301	9,334
Handkerchiefs (dutiable).....	281,732	258,000	239,585
United Kingdom.....	248,587	233,028	223,308
United States.....	2,244	950	3,518
Switzerland.....	26,822	13,809	3,795
Hemp, dressed or undressed (free).....	448,970	318,914	401,616
United Kingdom.....	56,489	24,522	76,789
United States.....	351,336	259,826	292,061
Mexico.....	13,965	.....	.....
New Zealand.....	7,232	6,738	14,483
Jute butts and jute (free).....	34,231	6,736	14,416
United Kingdom.....	2,299	4,807	12,668
United States.....	28,525	1,929	1,548
Thread (dutiable).....	239,904	224,675	302,297
United Kingdom.....	234,655	216,009	287,780
United States.....	3,600	7,475	21,451
Towels (dutiable).....	201,417	156,339	139,822
United Kingdom.....	183,447	148,510	119,135
United States.....	4,275	2,918	11,494
Yarn:			
Jute or hemp, plain dyed or colored (free).....	283,736	205,126	307,989
United Kingdom.....	229,789	161,167	102,940
United States.....	37,539	25,798	106,438
Italy.....	16,108	11,613	36,740
Linen (free).....	22,636	108,487	98,189
United Kingdom.....	19,728	96,082	78,643
United States.....	2,907	6,043	13,483
Other flax, etc. (dutiable).....	330,208	226,984	218,224
United Kingdom.....	286,004	181,714	153,658
United States.....	41,892	42,824	53,379

Flax, hemp, jute, and manufactures of.	1914	1915	1916
RECAPITULATION.			
Total imports from United Kingdom.....	\$5,089,071	\$3,730,941	\$3,390,806
Dutiable.....	2,753,725	2,826,143	2,871,412
Free.....	2,335,346	904,798	519,394
Total imports from United States.....	841,878	1,062,200	1,956,439
Dutiable.....	205,492	671,943	1,359,295
Free.....	636,386	390,257	597,144
Total imports from other countries.....	3,032,108	1,634,375	2,532,256
Dutiable.....	342,274	849,325	2,368,889
Free.....	2,689,834	785,050	163,367
Grand total imports of flax, hemp, jute, and manufactures of.....	8,963,057	6,427,516	7,879,501
Dutiable.....	3,301,491	4,347,411	6,599,596
Free.....	5,661,566	2,080,105	1,279,905

Dominion has Exportable Surplus of Flaxseed.

Of flaxseed, however, Canada usually has an important surplus, shipping to other countries in the fiscal year 1914 domestic seed to the value of \$24,816,333; in 1915, \$10,359,703; and in 1916, \$2,973,932. In this trade the United States ranks first, as the following table discloses:

Flaxseed.	1914		1915		1916	
	Domestic.	Foreign.	Domestic.	Foreign.	Domestic.	Foreign.
Total exports.....	\$24,816,333	\$1,918,268	\$10,359,703	\$88,475	\$2,973,932	.....
To United Kingdom.....	10,482,556	1,196,681	928,346	88,475	47,511	.....
To United States.....	11,910,681	.....	9,420,263	.....	2,926,421	.....

The Dominion's imports of flaxseed amounted to but \$2,906 in the fiscal year 1914 (\$2,336 worth coming from the United States), and to \$366 in 1915 (\$353 from the United States); but in the twelve-month ended March 31, 1916, they rose to \$96,941 (\$65,149 worth being supplied by the United States).

STANDARDS FOR RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN CHILE.

In connection with a recent law providing for cooperation among the railway lines of Chile, with reciprocity in the use of tracks [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Feb. 2, 1916], the Chilean Minister of Railways has issued a set of standards for railway construction. Private companies receiving railway concessions from the Government must conform to these standards, which, as published in the Diario Oficial, cover the width of track, restrictions as to curves, maximum grades, specifications for rails and crossties, and all details connected with the grading of the road and laying of the track.

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 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Acid phosphate-----	23078	Glucose-----	23080
Advertising novelties-----	23082	Kitchen utensils-----	23086
Agency-----	23085	Leather-----	23082
Bottles-----	23082	Leather bags and purses-----	23081
Crockery and glassware-----	23086	Lubricants and oils-----	23082
Cutlery-----	23082	Packing-----	23084
Eggs-----	23082	Paper-----	23079, 23082
Fans-----	23082	Rye-----	23083
Fire insurance agency-----	23082	Stationery and supplies-----	23082
Flour-----	23083	Sugar-----	23082
Foodstuffs and provisions-----	23082	Thread-----	23082
Fruits-----	23082	Twine-----	23082

23078.*—The buyer for a fertilizer company in Spain desires to purchase from 25,000 to 50,000 tons of acid phosphate containing 16 per cent phosphoric acid, soluble both in water and in citrate of ammonia; also acid phosphate containing not less than 18 per cent phosphoric acid soluble as above. Correspondence in English acceptable, but Spanish or French is preferred. References.

23079.†—A firm of manufacturers' agents in Mexico desires to be placed in touch with manufacturers of paper similar to sample which may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file Miscel. No. 166.) Correspondence in Spanish.

23080.*—A firm in Portugal is in the market for glucose. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23081.*—A wholesale house in the United Kingdom desires to receive samples of women's cheap leather hand bags and purses. If satisfactory, orders for 5 gross of the larger sizes and 15 to 25 gross of the smaller will be placed as an initial order. All samples to be paid for or returned. Cheapness and durability of goods is desired, together with the prospect of immediate delivery. References.

23082.‡—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 22340, a manufacturers' agent in Argentina writes that he more particularly wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of advertising novelties, especially fans; cutlery, including corkscrews and pocketknives; commercial and sample envelopes; stationery and supplies; paper of all kinds; leather; bottles for wine, whisky, beer, etc.; eggs; fresh fruit, especially apples; sugar; foodstuffs and provisions; twine; sewing thread; and lubricants and mineral machinery oils. The agent also desires to represent an American fire insurance company.

23083.*—A firm in Norway desires to represent American exporters of patent flour and white rye. It is stated the firm can use 5,000 sacks of rye per month.

23084.*—A hardware firm in Central America desires to purchase from 500 to 1,000 pounds of sheet rubber packing one-sixteenth inch to one-eighth inch thick, in rolls; and 500 pounds of asbestos packing, round, one-eighth inch to 1 inch in diameter. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23085.‡—A manufacturers' agent in Peru for several American firms desires to represent a few additional lines. No particular lines are specified.

23086.†—An export commission firm on the Pacific coast has inquiries from Russia regarding kitchen utensils, enameled ware, glassware, and crockery, etc.

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No. 277 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 24 1916

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BRITISH GOVERNMENT BUYS NEW ZEALAND WOOL CLIP.

[Cablegram from American Consul at Auckland, New Zealand, Nov. 22.]

British Government has bought the entire New Zealand wool clip at 55 per cent advance 1913-14 prices.

RELAXATION OF FRENCH EMBARGO DECREE.

[Journal Officiel, Oct. 29 and 31.]

The decree of October 26 prohibiting the exportation of a large number of articles has been modified by a ministerial order of October 28, which authorizes the exportation of the goods mentioned below to the United States, other American countries, the United Kingdom, British possessions, uninvaded Belgium, Japan, and Russia (except through Baltic ports). The articles affected are formic acid; chemical matches; amomum and cardamoms; benzyl and ethyl benzoate; borate of lime; silica bricks; brush ware; coffee substitutes; cassia lignea; quitch grass; roasted or ground chicory; colchicum and its preparations; dextrin; brandies and liqueurs; manures of all kinds; tinctorial extracts; roasted figs (coffee substitute); fabrics of vegetable fibers; table fruits (fresh, dried, candied, or preserved); game; gluten bread; volatile oils and essences; rushes (jones); kaolin; mace; honey; nutmegs; mats of straw and vegetable fibers; paraffin paper; parings of hides; unworked rabbit skins; pine nuts; feathers of poultry, waste, feathers, and down; radium and its salts; straps (sangles); sauces and condiments; products containing essence of turpentine; carbon tetrachloride; vanilla; waterproof clothing.

[The embargo decree of Oct. 26 was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 30.]

BRITISH FIX MAXIMUM PRICES FOR HAY AND STRAW.

[Vice Consul Leslie E. Reed, London, Nov. 7.]

On November 5 the British Army council announced maximum prices for the sale of hay, oat straw, and wheat straw in the United Kingdom, and stated that such maxima should not be exceeded. The prices per long ton as fixed by the army council are:

Market.	Producer's maximum, per ton.			Distributor's maximum, per ton.		
	Hay.	Oat straw.	Wheat straw.	Hay.	Oat straw.	Wheat straw.
England.....	\$26.77	\$14.60	\$12.17	\$36.50	\$21.90	\$19.47
Ireland.....	23.72	13.33	12.17	32.24	20.68	19.47
Scotland.....	24.94	13.33	12.17	34.67	20.68	19.47
Isle of Man.....	23.71	.....	.....	32.24	.....	.....

In the case of a producer the above figures are held to include the cost of carting to the nearest railway station, but not the cost of cutting, trussing, tying, or baling. For the dealer or distributor the prices given include all costs and charges whatsoever for hay and straw delivered to consumer's premises, except where the sale covers a quantity of less than 1 ton, in which case the actual cost of delivery may be added.

CATALOGUES OF FLOUR-MILL MACHINERY FOR CHINA.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, Oct. 9.]

American manufacturers of flour-mill machinery are requested to forward their catalogues and descriptive literature for filing in the reading room of the consulate general at Hankow, China. When possible, price lists of various parts and machines, with discounts, should accompany the catalogues. If discounts are confidential, this should be so stated. There have been four inquiries from local firms for catalogues of flour-mill machinery at this office during the last six months, and as Hankow is an excellent center for the erection of mills, as is evidenced by the five successful mills operating here, it is thought that these catalogues may be useful in developing American trade in this line.

BANANA SHIPMENTS FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Plata, Nov. 1.]

Banana exports from the plantation at Sosua, Puerto Plata Province, continued from March until October of this year. A total of 315,700 bunches valued at \$157,850 was shipped, in comparison with 366,000 bunches valued at \$183,000 in 1915. The average yield for the 10 preceding years had been 524,700 bunches.

The only commercial exports of bananas from the Dominican Republic during recent years have been from the plantation at Sosua. Owing to diminishing yields the business has not been very profitable in recent years.

TIENTSIN-PUKOW ROAD PROPOSES ABOLITION OF LIKIN.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Sept. 15.]

The management of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway, a Chinese Government line, which was built partly with British and partly with German capital, is in communication with the Peking authorities on the subject of the abolition of likin on the line. The payment of likin, or tolls, usually in the amount of $2\frac{1}{4}$ or 3 per cent ad valorem at a time, on all merchandise passing certain barriers is a matter of concern to those engaged in the internal trade of China. On the railways the publicity of the bills of lading prevents the bargaining and compromises between the merchants and the authorities that have been customary on the roads and waterways.

Treaties made with the United Kingdom and the United States some years ago provided for the raising of the Chinese import duties, contingent on the abolition of likin, so that, as far as the central Government is concerned, the obstacle to the abolition of the latter form of taxation is no longer financial. The Provinces, however, derive relatively large amounts of revenue from the likin, and so far little or no progress has been made in putting an end to it. The efforts of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway authorities are therefore of great interest.

Line of Greater Importance Than Name Indicates.

The line is of greater importance than its name indicates, for it is a link in the Peking-Shanghai service. At one end is a through service from Tientsin on to Peking, and at the other it is necessary only to cross on the ferry to Nanking to take the train for Shanghai.

Negotiations are said to be proceeding with the object of connecting up the Tientsin-Pukow Railway with the Tsingtau-Tsinan line for through traffic. The latter line was built by the Germans through the length of Shantung Province, the most densely populated in China, as a result of the lease of the port of Tsingtau. It has now passed into the hands of the Japanese. The line already brings great quantities of the products of the Province, particularly tussah silk, pongee, straw braid, peanuts, and vermicelli, into Tsingtau for export, but the establishment of through traffic at Tsinan will make it possible to develop the former as a port for a considerable region in the basin of the Yellow River, which at present is not altogether adequately provided for, especially in the winter, when Tientsin is difficult of access.

BUILDING OF SILOS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Oct. 24.]

Recently the New South Wales Government Department of Agriculture announced that funds would be provided for assisting farmers in the erection of silos, and numerous inquiries have been received, especially from dairy farmers. Many of the applicants have signified their willingness to pay for the silos when they are completed, while others have agreed to pay much larger deposits than was anticipated. Owing to the abundance of rainfall in many districts, silos will greatly benefit dairy farmers by enabling them to conserve the fodder harvested during the rainy season.

CHILEAN NITRATE STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Consul Thomas W. Voettér, Antofagasta, Oct. 25.]

September was notable for the very large exportation of nitrate of soda from Chilean ports, the 7,697,000 quintals shipped being the record for any month and an increase of 3,359,000 quintals over August. (The Spanish quintal is equivalent to 101.4 avoidupois pounds.) This great jump in exports was due to the unusual amount of tonnage available in the nitrate ports. The large shipments have served to reduce the stock of nitrate at coast ports, and recently some of the railroads have been taxed to their capacity to bring sufficient nitrate from the oficinas in the interior to supply ships waiting for cargo.

Production during September was about 669,000 quintals less than in the previous month, being 4,724,400 quintals against 5,393,391 for August. Compared with September in the three preceding years the production and exportation of Chilean nitrate were:

September.	Production.	Exportation.
	Quintals.	Quintals.
1916.....	4,724,400	7,697,000
1915.....	3,492,260	3,970,001
1914.....	2,855,330	2,119,000
1913.....	4,516,288	4,118,000

Prices of nitrate advanced during the month, but there were greater advances for early deliveries than for deliveries during 1917, and the market was much more firm for prompt supplies. Ordinary nitrate was quoted at \$1.95 to \$2.07 per quintal, depending on delivery offered. For refined nitrate, 96 per cent less 1 per cent, prices were \$2.11 for early delivery, and \$2.03 for 1917 delivery. The premiums for early delivery seem to be increasing during October, because of a lack of supplies ready for shipment at the coast.

BRITISH COAL-TAR PRODUCTS CENSUS.

[J. F. Butler, secretary to commercial attaché, London, Nov. 3.]

A census of coal-tar products, especially those that may be used in the manufacture of munitions of war, has been ordered by the British Minister of Munitions. Under a recent official notice all persons engaged within the United Kingdom in the production, manufacture, purchase, sale, or distribution of any coal-tar or coke or their by-products (including in particular tar, carbolic crystals, benzol, toluol, ammoniacal liquor, and sulphate of ammonia) must furnish to the minister of munitions such particulars as to output, working of plant, cost of manufacture, sales, deliveries, stock in hand, purchases, and prices as may be called for. The particulars so furnished must be verified and authenticated by the signature of the person required to furnish the same, or, where such person is a firm or company, by a partner, director, or other responsible officer.

New Wireless Station in Bolivia.

A new wireless station has recently been erected at Viacha near La Paz. The West Coast Leader says that commercial service was established October 20 between the Bolivian station and the Lima wireless station at San Cristobal.

CANADIAN ROOT AND FODDER CROPS.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Nov. 16.]

According to a recent bulletin issued by the Canadian Census and Statistics Office, the total Canadian area this year under root and fodder crops, consisting of potatoes, turnips, etc., hay, clover, alfalfa, fodder corn, and sugar beets, is reported at 8,980,000 acres, which is practically the same total as in 1915. There is, however, an increase of about 100,000 acres under hay and clover, the total area of which is nearly 8,000,000 acres. The total value at local prices of all these crops is estimated for 1916 at \$249,882,000 as compared with \$229,508,000 for 1915. The yield of hay and clover for this year is a record one, amounting to 14,799,000 tons, an average of 1.86 tons per acre, the highest yield per acre recorded for this crop in Canada. The average value per ton is given as \$11.50 as compared with \$14 last year. The potato crop is poor on account of unfavorable conditions in Quebec and Ontario. The average yield per acre in Quebec was 131 bushels and in Ontario only 61 bushels. In the Maritime Provinces the potato yield was 206 bushels per acre. In the Prairie Provinces the yields averaged between 170 and 177 bushels per acre and in British Columbia 189 bushels.

Fall Wheat and Fall Plowing.

Some difficulties have been experienced on account of the dry conditions of the soil in Ontario in the plowing and seeding of fall wheat, resulting in a decrease of area plowed on October 31 amounting to 164,100 acres or 20 per cent. There was a decrease of plowed land in Alberta of 14 per cent, and for all Canada the area estimated to be sown to fall wheat is 899,300 acres as compared with 1,100,800 acres a year ago, or a decrease of 18 per cent. The condition of fall wheat on October 31 for all Canada is 76 per cent of the standard as compared with 88 per cent last year and 97 per cent in 1914.

PERUVIANS STUDY THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

The Government of Peru has issued an order through the Department of Fomento commissioning two Peruvian graduate students to spend a year in Cuba in a practical study of the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco. The order, as published in *El Peruano*, indicates that the Peruvian Government believes the expense of this commission will prove a profitable investment. The tobacco industry is a Government monopoly in Peru, and it is hoped that with a more scientific knowledge of the raising and curing of the weed this industry may add much to the prosperity of the country.

Registration of House Flag and Funnel Marks.

The United States Bureau of Navigation announces the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of the following-described house flag and funnel marks of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., San Francisco, Cal.: House flag, a swallow-tailed flag, divided longitudinally into five stripes, the top and bottom stripes being red, the two adjacent stripes white, and the middle stripe blue; funnel marks, a yellow funnel, with a black band at top and an adjacent white band.

AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WOOL TRADE.

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Oct. 16.]

A deputation of Victorian wool growers which waited upon the State Premier, Sir Alexander Peacock, on October 11, 1916, urged the removal of the embargo on the export of wool to the United States. It was stated that the United States had paid Australia nearly \$50,000,000 for wool last year, and that if the embargo were not removed this valuable market might be lost. The following resolutions, which had been passed at a meeting of the wool growers, were presented:

That this meeting of wool growers in the State of Victoria direct the attention of the Premier to the following facts: 1. That last season the United States of America purchased nearly one-third of the wool clip of Australia. 2. That the embargo on shipment of wool to America is detrimental, not alone to the interests of wool growers, but also to the financial position of the whole State. 3. That it is impossible for the mills of Great Britain and its allies to work up the wool of Australia. 4. That the wool of South Africa is not subject to embargo, and, in consequence, American buyers and ships are diverted to that market.

The chairman of the deputation also presented the following statistics with relation to the percentages of Australian wool that went to different markets:

Market.	Pre-war.	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Continent.....	55	9	13
United Kingdom.....	22	64	41
America.....	6	15	31
Japan.....	1	5	6
Local manufacturers.....	6	7	9
Total.....	100	100	100

It was further said that Great Britain could probably absorb the better class of wools at a good price, but not the burry and carbonizing sorts; that Italy and Japan would probably take a fair amount of the crossbred wool if the modified embargo on that did not prevent them from doing so; and that the freight on wool to Japan was only $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (\$.01) a pound as against $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. (\$.05 $\frac{1}{4}$) to England.

[The Nov. 14, 1916, issue of COMMERCE REPORTS contained a cablegram from the American consul general at Sydney, stating that the embargo on burry wools destined for the United States had been removed, effective November 20. Other references to the desire of the Australian growers for a lifting of this embargo appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 19 and Nov. 13, 1916.]

INDIANS OF NORTHWEST TAKE FUR-SEAL SKINS.

Skins of seals which were speared from canoes by Indians of the State of Washington were among those sold at auction at St. Louis this year. The Indians availed themselves of privileges granted by the north Pacific sealing convention of July 7, 1911, to the extent of taking several hundred skins. The United States Bureau of Fisheries authenticated 380 of the skins as having been lawfully taken. It is understood that about 70 skins still remain unauthenticated.

MEXICAN EXPORT DUTIES ON METALS.

A table showing the Mexican export duties on metals and ores, effective during the month of November, has been forwarded by the special representative of American interests in Mexico City. The rates are contained in the instructions sent by the Director of the Treasury to all collectors of customs at Mexican ports. The duties are as follows (peso, \$0.498; kilo, 2.2046 pounds):

	Pesos, gold, per kilo.
Silver:	
In bars or ingots.....	3.491
In ores or concentrates.....	4.364
Copper:	
In bars or ingots.....	5.914
Laminated.....	5.618
In ores or concentrates.....	.07392
Lead:	
In bars or ingots.....	.00932
In ores or concentrates.....	.01165
Tin:	
In bars or ingots.....	.07211
In ores and concentrates.....	.08013
Antimony:	
In bars or ingots.....	.00294
In ores or concentrates.....	.00409
Zinc:	
In bars or ingots.....	.01444
In ores and concentrates.....	.01912
Tungsten:	
In bars or ingots.....	.13535
In ores and concentrates.....	.16919
Graphite:	
Amphorous.....	.00235
Pure or refined.....	.01496

In applying these rates to metals treated in national metallurgical establishments they are to be considered as net. The duties on ores and concentrates shall be calculated according to the metallic content as shown by the Government assay.

IMPORTS OF AMERICAN GOODS INTO NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Consul Lucien N. Sullivan, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.]

There was a decrease of \$429,980 in the value of the imports from the United States into Newcastle during the year ended June 30, 1916, compared with the preceding year. The principal items, with their value, were as follows:

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Apparel and soft goods.....	\$20,585	Paraffin wax.....	\$35,910
Arms and ammunition.....	14,955	Soap, toilet.....	4,832
Fish, preserved in cans.....	46,537	Timber.....	226,333
Fruits, dried, etc.....	4,102	Tools (of trade).....	20,503
Drugs and chemicals.....	12,979	Turpentine.....	6,371
Glassware, sheet, clear.....	13,096	Vehicles.....	9,337
Iron and steel, bars, galvanized.....	132,773	All other articles.....	172,013
Machinery.....	271,337		
Metal ware.....	92,897	Total.....	1,292,786
Oils:			
Benzine and benzoline.....	83,256		
Kerosene.....	124,534		

PIANOS IN JOHANNESBURG AND PORT ELIZABETH.

[Consul Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Johannesburg, South Africa, Sept. 18.]

American piano manufacturers who seek to extend their trade in the Johannesburg consular district should be forewarned of the climatic conditions that prevail here. This city, as well as the surrounding country, has an altitude of almost 6,000 feet, and the changes in temperature are rapid and radical. On account of the trying conditions produced by the climate, which is dry and warm in summer and dry and cold in winter, with frequent and sudden falling of the temperature at night in all seasons, certain qualities are considered essential.

Kinds of Instruments in Demand.

Size and compactness of the instrument are most important. What is known as the colonial type of piano, about 4 feet 3 inches in height, meets this requirement. The material and workmanship should be of the highest grade. It is advisable that the piano have an iron frame and be constructed only of thoroughly seasoned material. Particular attention should be given to the wrist plank; and, according to one of the principal piano dealers in South Africa, nothing less than 5-ply material should be used. The tone also is a decisive factor. A moderate tone usually appeals to the South African buyer. All of the metal used in the construction of the instrument should be of a nonrustable nature, and only grades of ivory and celluloid which are capable of withstanding a trying climate should be employed.

The upright piano seems to be most popular, commonly retailing for about \$240. The style is simple, and a distinction which may be readily appreciated by the purchaser is imparted. Such pianos are generally finished with French polish, and are necessarily of a high quality. They are largely imported from England or Germany, and as a rule have either mahogany or walnut color.

Range of Prices for Types in Use.

Although the colonial type is favored, other makes are sold in comparatively large quantities. The retail prices vary according to the type, material, workmanship, finish, and reputation of the manufacturer. They range from \$200 to \$350 and from \$750 to \$900. Pianola prices range from \$250 to \$1,350.

Various methods have been employed by the local dealers for extending the sales of their pianos. Among the most effective may be mentioned advertising in the daily newspapers and weekly illustrated publications; the trial system, employed by some with success; and the partial-payment plan, which practically all firms in this city have now adopted. Usually the equivalent of \$25 United States currency is paid when the piano is delivered at the home of the purchaser. Thereafter payments of \$10 to \$15 per month are required.

Packing for transportation should receive the serious attention of exporters. The pianos are subjected to an oversea journey and often a transfer must be made from one ship to another on account of the infrequency of direct sailings between the United States and South African ports. A method which has met the approval of various local dealers is to pack the piano in a strong wooden box, which is shaped like the instrument. This box should be lined with zinc

casings to enable the piano to withstand climatic changes. The piano should then be belted or bolted to the covering material.

Popular German and English Instruments.

Germany's success in the sale of pianos in this consular district is attributed chiefly to the particular grade of instrument the manufacturers of that country were able to place upon this market at a reasonable price. Perhaps the most popular German products are the Ronescher, Seiler, Gunther, Fischer, Otto Bach, Sparnagel, and Gors & Kallman, while those of English manufacture are the Hopkinson, Rogers, Squire, Collard & Collard, Chappell, Broadwood, Brinsmead, and Burling & Mansfield.

Both Germany and England have adopted, with some benefit to their export trade, long terms of credit and easy methods of payment. Credit is often granted for 90 or 120 days. The German manufacturer has not only cooperated in every possible manner with his local agent, but he has also sent special representatives to travel throughout the country. In some instances the manufacturer has found it profitable to visit South Africa and study the requirements of this trade. He obtains intimate knowledge of selling and trade conditions and employs any legitimate means of creating a special demand for his piano.

Favorable Attitude Toward American Pianos.

Although the sale of English and German pianos has been comparatively large, it is not known that there are any special reasons why these countries are better fitted to supply the needs of the South African market than the United States. American pianos are well received by the local dealers and the buying public. Their workmanship and finish, as a rule, are admired, and a ready sale probably will be found if American manufacturers are able to compete in style, price, and quality. Competition, however, must be expected.

Probably the most serious handicap to the trade in this class of goods at present is the unusually high scale of ocean freight rates. To this must be added insurance rates and increased cost of handling cargo.

Perhaps no more propitious time to enter this market than the present will ever present itself to American manufacturers of pianos, but it is difficult to obtain shipments from America. While South Africa is fortunate in being served by the Union-Castle Co., African Shipping Agency, Aberdeen Line, White Star Line, Natal Direct Line, and various other lines, sailings have been more or less irregular and broken by rather long intervals. Although freight rates in general between South African and English ports have been increased, the change has been much greater between South African and American ports. One of the principal dealers states that the freight on pianos between the United States and South Africa is, at the time of writing this report, about 350 per cent higher than the normal rate.

Need of Direct Steamship Service.

Importers as a whole agree that there could be no greater stimulus to trade between the United States and South Africa than would be afforded by direct steamship service. Existing trade relations between these countries are affected by insufficient ocean communica-

tion. A great percentage of all goods now coming from and going to the United States must be rehandled and transshipped. Not only is a considerable proportion of these exchanges subject to unloading from one steamship to another, but many shipments are delayed by having to be sent by rail from one point to another in England. An increase in freight rates is one of the results, and this, in turn, affects the ultimate consumption of the product.

Johannesburg, with a population of 263,274, is the largest city in South Africa and one of the most cosmopolitan places in the world. The tastes of the people are varied, ranging from the simplest among the natives to the most refined and cultivated. Music is, and has been, therefore, one of the principal means of satisfying these wants. At least 75 per cent of the European homes of the city are provided with musical instruments of various kinds. The piano and the gramophone are by far the most popular.

In order to satisfy a growing love for music, musical academies and conservatories have been established in and about Johannesburg. Societies devoted to this art exist throughout the consular district. The Government and private schools have endeavored to foster a love for music by encouraging in every possible manner its growth and extension.

[A list of dealers in musical instruments in the Johannesburg consular district, as announced in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 21, 1916, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices, by referring to file No. 79728. An article on the piano market in the Durban district was published in the issue of Nov. 13, 1916.]

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Oct.. 4.]

Styles that are Popular in Port Elizabeth.

For ordinary general trade, the piano 50 to 51 inches high and 25 to 26 inches deep, retailing in Port Elizabeth for \$175 to \$250, is the most popular. The British and German pianos that have been most popular here for many years correspond to the pianos of American make that are sometimes called three-fourths size. As the freight on such a shipment is reckoned at the rate of 40 cubic feet of space per ton, the saving in freight on a small piano, as compared with the ordinary American upright, is an important consideration.

Stocks of pianos, as well as many other articles of trade in South Africa, are carried by several of the importing firms, so that the demand may readily be supplied with little or no delay. This method, adopted in connection with import lines from Great Britain, could be copied by American exporters to ultimate advantage. Extended-term payments are sometimes granted by the retailers. This is made possible when favorable terms are granted to retailers by importers and holders of stocks.

Discrimination in Freight Rates.

Freight charges furnish the real problem in connection with American piano exports to South Africa. The rate from London to Port Elizabeth by ordinary freight steamer is \$20.44 per ton, and by mail steamer \$21.72 per ton. This is for a distance of about 6,000 miles. The freight from New York, which is less than 1,000 miles farther away than London, is \$48.97. This amounts to a discrimination against American pianos, and the freight difference is noticeable in nearly all other lines.

The imports of musical instruments into this consular district in 1913 amounted to \$251,000, in 1914 to \$196,500, and in 1915 to \$76,300. Of these imports, approximately 80 per cent consisted of pianos. In 1913, 69 per cent were from Germany, 21 per cent from Great Britain, and 6 per cent from America. In 1915, 16 per cent were from America.

Most Promising Sales Methods.

The primary and most essential step in the direction of increased trade is to obtain a reasonable freight rate from New York. When this has been accomplished an agent should be selected. A large importing firm with extensive connections throughout the country should prove satisfactory. An active experienced piano dealer might be even more successful. In either case pianos should be stocked and arrangements made for installment payments if possible. American organs are most popular, and the few American pianos now owned here give satisfaction.

Pianos should be shipped in air-tight zinc-lined or tin-lined cases to protect them from moisture.

FUTURE OF MACHINERY IN FRENCH AGRICULTURE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Oct. 16.]

Prof. Max Ringelmann, director of the French official bureau for testing agricultural machinery, makes the following statement concerning the future of machinery in French agriculture:

Of the 130,965,000 acres included within the frontiers of France before the war, the agricultural territory amounted to 123,552,000 acres, of which the cultivated area formed 113,663,000 acres. Plows drawn by cattle or horses were employed upon the following areas:

Crops.	Acres.
Cereals and grains.....	33,112,000
Tubers.....	3,884,000
Beets.....	741,000
Annual forage crops.....	4,200,000
Artificial and temporary meadows; of the 7,907,000 acres occasionally devoted to this purpose, there are plowed each year.....	1,730,000
Total.....	43,737,000

Assuming that only the tenth part of the above area—that is to say, 4,374,000 acres—admits of the economical employment of machinery, it would appear that 17,000 farm tractors could be used for plowing purposes in France.

Of the 5,500,000 agricultural "exploitations" of France, one may estimate at 85,000 the number which are likely to be interested in the use of machinery for farming purposes, and particularly farm tractors. In addition to appliances used for plowing, scarifying, harvesting, etc., there will also be a demand for what may be called special appliances, particularly those which will be needed by viticulturists; and it should be noted that the vineyards of France have a total area of more than 3,700,000 acres.

The farm machinery needed by the French colonies constitutes a distinct category because of environmental and climatic conditions differing from those that prevail in the mother country. It is also to be noted that machinery will probably be used upon a large scale in general land improvements, such as clearing up the land and removing stones and stumps, which farmers now hesitate to undertake with only the aid of horse-drawn appliances.

NEW LIQUOR LAW IN ECUADOR.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Oct. 23.]

The liquor industry of Ecuador is placed on a new basis by a law passed by Congress, and published in *El Telegrafo* of October 20. The provisions of the new law governing the manufacture and sale of liquor are similar to those applicable to the tobacco industry in the law recently promulgated [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 22]. The text of the law is summarized briefly, as follows:

The domestic manufacture of wine and spirits is permitted only within the restrictions of this law. Sugar growers must obtain licenses if their crop is to be used in the distillation of spirits. A tax is imposed on each hectare of land planted with sugar cane for distilling purposes. Distillers must obtain licenses, and their plants must be located at the place of production of the raw material. Distilleries may not sell their products in less than 10-liter quantities. The distillation of spirits from pan sugar, brown sugar, fruits, and grains is prohibited. Spirits may not be transported without a permit. Licenses for selling domestic wines and spirits will be sold at auction between December 1 and 15 of each year, but the first auction shall take place between January 1 and 15, 1917. A special tax shall be imposed on establishments selling imported liquors. The payment of liquor revenues assigned by special laws to certain institutions shall continue on the basis of an average annual sum. While this law is in force, no other tax may be placed on liquors imported for the use of municipalities or public institutions. The law becomes effective January 1, 1917.

DOMINICAN PORT REGULATIONS RELAXED.

[Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Ziellinski, Santo Domingo, Nov. 1.]

For many years past the port regulations in Santo Domingo have required all dock laborers to register at the office of the commandant of the port, and have restricted vessels, when engaging stevedores, to the laborers so registered. This system led to considerable delay, and, further, the port authorities usually demanded a share of the pay from the laborer and often also a fee from the shipowners. The men knew that they were entirely under the control of the commandant and did not care whether or not their actual employers were satisfied with their work.

A new decree, published in the *Gaceta Oficial* on October 11, does away with this system and enables ships to obtain dock laborers wherever they can. The present rate is \$1 a day for work on general cargo on the dock and \$1.50 on board; for work on sugar cargo, \$1.50 on the dock and \$2 on board.

Argentine Government Encourages Stock Raising.

The Argentine Department of Agriculture has appropriated a sum of money and gold medals to be given as prizes at a stock show in Cordoba and at a poultry exposition in Pergamino. These appropriations, which are noted in a recent number of the *Boletin Oficial*, are in conformity with the policy of the Argentine Government to encourage agricultural and stock-raising industries.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY'S EXPERIMENTS IN FLAX GROWING.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, England, Oct. 30.]

Attention has recently been called to the Leeds University's experiments in flax growing by the visit of the members of the Textile Institute Congress to the experiment station at Selby, Yorkshire, to observe what is being done in the attempt to reestablish the flax industry in England. The enterprise was originated in 1913 by the Leeds University and the Flax and Hemp Growers' Society, working in conjunction. Mill premises were secured on the River Ouse at Selby. The following description of the work is quoted from the report of one of the visitors published in the Yorkshire Post:

By arrangement with neighboring farmers about 120 acres are planted to flax each year, and the crop is thereafter subjected to trials in the various operations connected with the production of flax fiber. All these processes were demonstrated to the visitors. Passing through the barns, they saw, first, the crushing out of the seed (the linseed of commerce) from the straw and its winnowing and dressing; then the binding up of bundles ready for retting and the retting itself—a soaking operation to loosen (by a long period of fermentation) the fiber; then the drying of the retted bundles in sheaves or "steeples" set up in a field; the mechanical breaking up of the now brittle woody parts of each stem by passing through fluted rollers; and finally the scotching operation, separating the flax fiber from the rest of the straw ready for baling and sale.

Objects of Present Experiments.

In an address to the visitors at the museum, Mr. Jackson gave an interesting account of the industry and explained the objects of the present experiments. Briefly, the idea is to find out the cost of growing flax and the cost of manufacturing a good class of fiber and to ascertain if it can be produced profitably enough to warrant a revival of the industry in England. As he pointed out, a fiber of high quality is necessarily the aim. The great bulk of imported flax came from Russia before the war and was of low quality. (Russia produced more than three-quarters of the world's supply.) Only Belgium, Holland, Ireland, and France produce any large quantities of high-class fiber. The expense of growing and the high cost of labor in England are serious considerations, but accurate records are being kept.

As to the processes of manufacture, few departures from old practice in machinery are employed. Mr. Jackson said Pliny's description of retting, for example, would be a good guide even to-day. At the experiment station, however, special attention is being paid to trials with both warm and cold water retting, and a system of tanks is in use whereby all conditions may be observed and noted, questions of temperature, the flow of water, and the length of treatment all being involved. And besides this particular research, investigation is being made in such matters as manures, varieties of seeds, systems of cultivation, and improved mechanical means, the financial side of the business being always kept in view.

With regard to the harvesting, it was explained that casual labor had to be employed and the necessary pulling by hand (to keep the ends of the straw straight) was a tedious and costly operation, one person pulling only about a quarter of an acre a day. An encouraging fact recorded in reference to the application of science was the production of a seed from which straw 9 inches longer than the Dutch variety had been grown.

PRICE OF DYESTUFF CENSUS.

In **COMMERCE REPORTS** for November 23 it was incorrectly stated that the price for "Artificial Dyestuffs Used in the United States," Special Agents Series No. 121, had been fixed at 50 cents. This report may be purchased for 30 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, or from the nearest district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Building materials, No. 3829.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until December 21, 1916, for furnishing and delivering materials required for guard's balcony and ladder track, in accordance with specifications which may be had on application to above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3830.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 22, 1916, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Dowagiac, Mich. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site or at the above-named office.

Medical supplies, No. 3831.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Field Medical Supply Depot, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., 400 gallons of oleum terebinthinae rectificatum, in 5-gallon tin containers.

Post-office construction, No. 3832.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 18, 1917, for the construction of the post office at Marion, S. C. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Marion, S. C., or from the above-named office.

Iron gates, No. 3833.—Sealed proposals will be received by the United States Reclamation Service, Denver, Colo., until December 20, 1916, for furnishing cast-iron gates and gate stands for Rio Grande Project, New Mexico-Texas. About 12 tons of metal work will be required. Specifications may be had on application to the United States Reclamation Service, Denver, Colo., or El Paso, Tex.

Electric lighting plant, etc., No. 3834.—Sealed proposals will be received by the commanding officer, Coast and Geodetic Survey steamer *Hydrographer*, Gulfport, Miss., until December 2, 1916, for furnishing and installing a complete electric lighting plant and a steam windlass on the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey steamer *Hydrographer*. Form of proposal and complete information may be had on application to above-named officer.

Bridge construction, No. 3835.—Sealed proposals will be received by the United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., until December 20, 1916, for furnishing and erecting one steel highway bridge consisting of four 41-foot 6-inch pony truss spans of the spillway at Sherburne Lakes Dam, Milk River Project, Mont. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Cranes, No. 3836.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 4, 1916, for furnishing two fitting-out cranes at the Navy Yard, Mare Island, Vallejo, Cal. Specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Cable, No. 3837.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the chief signal officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until December 9, 1916, for furnishing cable in accordance with specifications which may be had on application to the above-named office. Refer to proposal No. 891.

Medical supplies, No. 3838.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until December 1, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 4,200 bottles of chloretone capsules. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Structural steel, No. 3339.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wheeling, W. Va., until December 8, 1916, for furnishing and delivering Bebout horses, props, etc., for Dams Nos. 21 and 22, Ohio River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Iron and steel work, No. 3840.—Sealed proposals will be received by the light-house inspector, New Orleans, La., for iron and wrought-steel work for Sabine Bank Light Station, Tex. Further information may be had on application to the above-named officer.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Ambers County, Va.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby.....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay...	Dec. 1	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2238 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1920 Bibernala Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. By. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern By. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural implements	23092; 23097	Musical instrument strings	23090
Candles	23094	Oils	23087
Casings	23098	Photographic supplies	23096
Chamois skins	23095	Seeds	23090
Dress shields	23091	Sheets, cotton, etc.	23089
Druggists' sundries	23094	Shoes	23094
Farm and trade journals	23097	Smokers' articles	23090
Gut, dried	23098	Snap fasteners	23099
Hardware	23097	Sponges	23095
Hosiery	23089; 23094	Tin, sheet	23088
Incubators	23092	Typewriters, rebuilt	23093
Machinery	23088	Umbrella frames	23099
Millinery supplies	23091	Underwear	23094

23087.†—A newly established firm in Sweden desires to represent American exporters of fuel oil, lubricating oils, and cotton-seed oil.

23088.*—A man in Spain desires to purchase sheet tin, and machinery for cutting and working sheet tin. Correspondence in English. References.

23089.*—A firm in Canada wishes to purchase cotton and flannellet sheets, and hosiery in cotton and fiber silk. The representation of an American firm in those lines is also desired. References.

23090.*—A wholesale importer in Argentina is desirous of receiving catalogues and quotations from American manufacturers of smoking pipes, cigarette and cigar holders, cigarette and cigar cases, tobacco pouches, strings for musical instruments, seeds, etc. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23091.†—A man in Holland wishes to get in touch with manufacturers of millinery supplies and novelties, and arm shields.

23092.†—An export commission house on the Pacific coast informs the Bureau that it has an inquiry from a firm in Russia for agricultural machinery and implements, and incubators.

23093.*—A hardware firm in Central America is in the market for 12 rebuilt typewriters, as follows: Three (3) 14-inch carriage, pica type (standard); 3 14-inch carriage, gothic type; 3 standard-carriage "letterhead," pica type; and 3 standard-carriage "letterhead," gothic type. Correspondence in English. References.

23094.†—A firm of manufacturers' representatives in Australia wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of shoes, underwear, and hosiery for women and children, candles, and druggists' sundries. References.

23095.*—An established firm in Denmark is in the market for sponges and chamois skins. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23096.*—A commission merchant in Spain desires to represent an American photographic supply house, handling articles such as dry plates, films, cameras, sensitized paper, albumenized paper, lenses, developing chemicals, holders, etc. References.

23097.*—A firm in South Africa desires to receive catalogues, price lists, and export terms from manufacturers of agricultural implements and light hardware. The firm would also like to receive sample copies, with subscription rates, of American publications devoted to those lines.

23098.*—A firm in Portugal wishes to purchase dried guts and casings in salt in barrels and bales. Correspondence in Spanish or French. References.

23099.*—A wholesale dealer in Spain is desirous of purchasing umbrella frames and snap fasteners. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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TEMPORARY TARIFF REDUCTION ON CLOTHING IN MEXICO.

According to information received from the United States collector of customs at El Paso, a reduction of 75 per cent in the duties applicable to common clothing and certain fabrics imported into Mexico is to be allowed for the present. [It is presumed that these reductions apply to the articles on which reduced rates were authorized by the decree of January 8, 1916, a list of which was published in Foreign Tariff Notes, No. 20 (p. 108).]

INCREASED TRANS-PACIFIC PASSENGER RATES.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 5.]

Important changes in the course of trans-Pacific passenger traffic which were impending some time before the war have been inaugurated in an increase, effective October 1, in passenger fares for first-cabin passengers on the vessels of the principal lines. The chief change is the rise in the cost of first-class passage from Hongkong to San Francisco, Vancouver, or Seattle from \$225—or rather the pound-sterling equivalent of \$225 American gold—to \$250 American gold, the American currency hereafter to be the basis of all trans-Pacific rates, thus abandoning a long-established custom of the trade so far as rates eastward are concerned.

In trans-Pacific rates for passengers there are two divisions, that from San Francisco, Vancouver, or Seattle to Yokohama and that from such American ports to Hongkong, Shanghai, and Manila. Heretofore the rate from Yokohama to the American ports has been the equivalent of \$200 American gold, while the rate from Hongkong, Manila, and Shanghai has been the equivalent of \$225 American gold. This difference is really out of proportion to the comparative length of the voyage to the several ports, but the steamer companies have reasoned that a passenger to or from Yokohama used cabin accommodations which would otherwise be available for the longer voyages with the larger fare and should therefore pay more

in proportion. The same reasoning has applied to fares between San Francisco and Honolulu, which were even larger in proportion, and for the same reason.

Change Affects All Fares.

Under the new schedule of rates the fare to and from Yokohama remains at the present rate, the increase in direct fare applying only to the more distant ports. However, all fares are raised in a way, for the agreement between the steamship companies now effective abolishes all special rates except a one-year round-trip rate. Special rates included percentage reduction of fares for missionaries and officers of various Governments resident in the Far East passing to and from their posts and also a six-months round-trip rate.

The passenger agreement on which the rates noted are based is effective between the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services (Ltd.), the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. There is some question as yet as to the course to be followed by other lines, notably the Nippon Yusen Kaisha with its service to Seattle. It is understood that this company will adopt rates showing a similar increase, though its charges will remain lower than the standard fares noted, and its course will continue to be independent of the conference lines. The China Mail Steamship Co. will maintain present rates. The three companies in the agreement issue interchangeable tickets. Intermediate service at lower rates is furnished by the Canadian Pacific line on the *Empress of Japan* and the *Monteagle* and by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha on the *Nippon Maru* and the *Persia Maru*. While no definite announcement has been made it is understood in shipping circles here that rates on other lines, such as the Blue Funnel, the Java-China, and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, will be advanced proportionately.

SNOWPLOWS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK TOWNS.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 13.]

The city of Fredericton is endeavoring to procure in Canada a new snow-plowing apparatus for that city. A plow is said to be made in this country for about \$60 that will serve the purpose of towns of a population of 2,000 to 7,500. The new plow now under consideration at Fredericton not only clears the sidewalk of snow, but cuts the ice (on the street), making unnecessary the covering of walks with sand in the winter months.

It is suggested that American manufacturers of snowplows write at once, with full details as to prices, patterns, etc., to the city clerk of the following towns in this district, all in New Brunswick: Fredericton, Woodstock, St. Stephen, Milltown, St. Andrews, and McAdams.

Snowplows made mostly or all of wood, imported from the United States, would probably come under item 506 of the general tariff, paying a duty of 25 per cent, with an additional surtax of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem. Snowplows of iron or steel would be subject to a duty of $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem, including the surtax.

The first section of the Cuzco-Santa Ana Railway, extending 20 miles to the village of Poroy, was opened on October 22, according to a notice in the West Coast Leader.

IMPORTANT TESTS OF AMERICAN CLAY REFRACTORIES.

One of the most elaborate investigations dealing with tests of the finished clay refractories of this country ever undertaken has been started by the United States Bureau of Standards in cooperation with the American Refractories Manufacturers Association and the American Gas Institute. It is proposed to make this work the basis of a system of classification and specifications governing the several classes of fire-clay refractories.

The bureau also has begun preliminary work on another investigation dealing with a phase of the same industry, using a dolomite in certain metallurgical furnaces as a refractory. Usually the burned dolomite is placed directly in position in the furnace with tar or some other combustible material as a binder. Where the lining was of such a nature that it had to be made of brick, magnesite brick was used. The price of magnesite brick, however, has advanced to such a degree that the use of this material has become almost prohibitive. It has been suggested at various times that dolomite might be burned in such a manner, or with the addition of such impurities that the lime present in it would not slake, except after an extended period, making it possible to produce a brick of this material which would replace the magnesite brick. The bureau by its investigation will determine the possibility of producing such a burned dolomite.

Month's Record in Clay Products and Glass.

The bureau during the month of October conducted many experiments dealing with clay products and glass. In the fire-brick investigation 24 sets of 10 specimens each were prepared, corresponding to 24 brands of fire brick, and the results obtained were plotted. For porosity and density determinations, 144 specimens of fire brick were prepared, corresponding to 24 new brands.

In the silica-brick investigation the volume of expansion of 32 specimens of silica brick was determined. In the investigation of the effect of calcine in fire-clay bodies 60 specimens were fired, and work previously done was recalculated and checked. In the porcelain investigation two firings, a biscuit and a glaze burn were made. In the glass investigation 10 pots with and without lining were made up and a run with 3 pots and another set charged for fusing. Four sets of clay-graphite mixtures were made up for graphite crucibles for the study of the carbon retention, due to the use of different clays. In the cement investigation 198 briquets, 24 two-inch cubes, 153 two-inch cylinders, and 72 six-inch cylinders were tested. Forty specimens of terra cotta were subjected to tests.

AMERICAN COTTON GOODS GAIN IN AUSTRALIA.

The "Australian Traveler" of October 4 comments upon the increase in the importation of cotton cloth from the United States during the fiscal year, stating that American goods are replacing those of European origin. According to figures supplied by Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, of Melbourne, Australia's cotton-cloth imports from the United States for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1916, totaled \$1,708,800 in value, as compared to \$880,320 for the preceding twelvemonth.

USE OF FERTILIZERS IN GUADELOUPE.

[Consul Henry T. Wilson, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Nov. 12.]

Fertilizers are imported into Guadeloupe solely for use on the sugar plantations. The continuous plantings and replantings of sugar cane have so reduced the fertility of the cane fields that fertilizers are now a necessity.

While the exact proportions of the ingredients used by the planters depend on the condition of the soil and the age of the cane plants, the formulas most in favor are as follows: (1) Sulphate of ammonia, 30 per cent; sulphate of potash, 15; nitrate of soda, 10; and superphosphate of lime, 45. (2) Dissolved Peruvian guano, 90 per cent; and nitrate of soda, 10.

Since the outbreak of the European war, however, the high prices of sulphate of potash and nitrate of soda have forced the planters to abandon the use of these ingredients and to substitute a much larger proportion of sulphate of ammonia. In some cases Peruvian guano is being used exclusively.

Imports of Fertilizers.

Statistics showing the imports of fertilizers for 1915 are not available, but those for previous years show that 2,237 metric tons, valued at \$42,540, were imported during 1913, and 3,027 tons, valued at \$115,308, during 1914. There was one small importation from the United States during 1913, amounting to 25.5 tons, valued at \$510. Owing to the great increase in prices caused by the war, the average cost per ton during 1914 was about \$38, or twice that of 1913.

Some of the planters prefer to buy ready mixed fertilizer, while others buy the ingredients and prepare the mixture to suit themselves. In any case, however, the chemicals are imported in bags and come almost entirely from England and France.

Although American fertilizers are not unknown and although they are admitted free of duty in common with the fertilizers from all other countries, they have not become popular. The planters are satisfied with the kinds they have been receiving from Europe, and as American fertilizers have never been seriously advertised or demonstrated, planters do not care to make a change. If American manufacturers are in a position to sell their products at prices that compare favorably with those paid for the European, and are willing to demonstrate the value of their goods, a good market for American fertilizers may in time be created.

[A list of importers of fertilizers in Guadeloupe can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82120.]

AUSTRALIA AND THE FAR EAST FLOUR MARKET.

Consul General J. I. Brittain reports from Sydney that the Australian millers anticipate regaining the flour market of the Far East which has been lost on account of the American millers selling at more favorable terms. There is a large surplus of last year's wheat still in Australia, and the 1916-17 yield promises well on account of the exceptional rainfall this year over the wheat area. The Sydney bakers are buying flour at £10 15s (\$52.30) per ton, delivered at present.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Nov. 6.]

Although it is somewhat early to give an accurate forecast of the probable wheat yield of New South Wales, in view of the fact that the Government statistician has not yet completed his returns, many private estimates anticipate a yield approximating last year's record production of 67,000,000 bushels. The winter rains in the wheat-producing areas of New South Wales have been extraordinary, and the ground has had such a soaking that crop failure from lack of moisture is almost impossible.

It is, however, to be regretted that two-thirds of last year's yield has not yet been shipped. The stores of Sydney are full and huge stacks of bagged wheat may be seen in the open, covered with iron. In the country, owing to congestion in Sydney, it has frequently been found impossible to forward the wheat, so that the waste will be enormous owing to bad stowage and rats. Another problem that farmers will have to face this season is the question of labor, which is becoming scarcer every day.

All wheat is bagged, and none is dealt with in bulk by the elevator system. A scheme is now under consideration, however, for the erection of elevators in the city and country, the estimated cost of which will be £2,000,000 (\$9,733,000 at the normal exchange rate). The Sydney elevator will have an initial storage capacity of 3,000,000 bushels, but will be extended later to hold 15,000,000 bushels. On the basis of a 40,000,000-bushel export crop, a conservative estimate of the probable saving per annum is £788,000 (\$3,835,000), assuming that marine insurance and freight will not be increased for bulk cargoes.

Business Quiet—Financial Conditions—Wool Season.

Business conditions in New South Wales until lately have been good, but recently things seem to have slackened off. At present the money spenders are undoubtedly the wage-earning classes, who owing to the scarcity of labor and high wages, are earning considerably more than usual. Owing to its docking and shipping conveniences, most of the transport fitting work is executed at Sydney, which means the local circulation of a considerable amount in the shape of wages and material. The pastoral and agricultural seasons, with the accompanying high prices paid for wool, have also been important factors. Where factories are able to maintain their output they are generally finding an excellent demand at remunerative prices. The Commonwealth Government has just foreshadowed additional taxation; to this and other causes is doubtless due the present general quietness in trade. The building trade is specially quiet, but this is attributed largely to the operations of the Fair Rents Act, which has now been in force for some time, and to the high price and scarcity of raw materials.

The premier of New South Wales has just made his financial statement and announced that the year's operations have resulted in a surplus of £150,000 (\$730,000). It was also announced that the deposits in the savings banks had increased by more than £1,000,000 (\$4,867,000), and in the trading banks by more than £10,000,000 (\$48,665,000).

The wool season, which has just commenced, promises to be good, prices being perhaps a trifle lower than the high closing prices of last season. The quantity and quality available will be about the same as last season.

New Harbor at Port Kembla.

Port Kembla, when it is finished, will be one of the finest harbors of New South Wales. The work of construction in connection with the breakwater and wharfage accommodations has been proceeding for 15 years but is now nearing completion. The port is situated 50 miles south of Sidney and is destined to be the shipping port for the bulk of the coal from the southern fields. Vessels of any tonnage can now enter in all weathers and unload cargoes with perfect safety. The depth of water at the northern end of the breakwater is 65 feet and at the eastern end of the breakwater 70 feet, with an average of 70 feet between the two walls. At the new coal-loading jetty there is a depth of 33 feet at low tide, with a 5-foot range. The eastern breakwater is now out a distance of 2,775 feet, and the northern 2,910 feet. It is being constructed of blocks of basalt with a minimum weight of 4 tons each. Storage bins with a capacity of 2,000 tons for storing coke are being built, and the old high-level jetty is being dismantled. The electrically-driven coal-loading plant has been in operation for 12 months, and by its means 800,000 tons of coal have been tipped into all sizes of vessels. At present vessels can be loaded at the rate of 680 tons per hour, but the machinery can be geared up to 850 tons per hour.

Port Kembla is the most important industrial center of the Illawarra district. The extensive premises of the Electrolytic Refining & Smelting Co. in this district produced last year gold, silver, and copper to the value of £2,365,725 (\$11,512,801), showing an increased production over the preceding year of £738,339 (\$3,593,127). Adjacent thereto are large coke factories.

Proposed Change in Tonnage Rates.

A bill to amend the Sydney Harbor Rates Act of 1904, now being considered by Parliament, is of special interest to owners and charterers of tramp steamers over 5,000 tons. Owing to the interpretation that has been placed on the Sydney Harbor Trust Act of 1904, large vessels can not be rated on their gross tonnage under that act but are restricted to net tonnage. That act provides that ships of more than 5,000 tons shall be exempt and that ships should not be charged for wharfage on public holidays or Sundays. This is a serious matter to the Sydney Harbor Trust, as it finds that it can not possibly berth the large tramp ships that come to this port at the inadequate rates now charged.

The alterations proposed are as follows: Section 7 of the Sydney Harbor Rates Act of 1904 is to be repealed and the following section inserted in its place:

"The tonnage rates to be levied shall be at the rate of one-half penny for each ton of the gross measurement of the vessel for each complete period of 24 hours, and for periods of less than 24 hours at the rate of one-eighth of a penny for each period of six hours or part thereof."

Decrease in Coal Exports—Gold Yield.

The coal exports from Newcastle for the half-year ended June 30 last reached 1,580,547 tons, as compared with 1,880,193 tons for the corresponding six months of last year, showing a falling off of 299,646 tons. The chief reasons for the decrease are the prevailing high rates of freight and the scarcity of tonnage.

The gold yield of New South Wales for the first eight months of this year amounted to 74,657 ounces crude, equal to 59,648 ounces fine, valued at £253,370 (\$1,233,025), as compared with 113,320 ounces crude, equal to 90,883 ounces fine, valued at £385,835 (\$1,877,666), for the corresponding period of 1915.

Cantilever Bridge from Sydney to North Sydney.

The proposal to construct a bridge to connect the northern and southern shores of the harbor has been rejected by the Legislative Assembly on the ground that the present time is inopportune, owing to the high cost of materials and of labor. There is not a sufficiently large plant in Australia for the required work, and it was the intention of the Government to invite world-wide tenders for its construction. The necessity for the bridge is not questioned, but it may now be safely said that tenders will not be invited till after the close of the war. Following are a few particulars of the design agreed upon: Bridge to be of the cantilever type, extending from Dawes Point to Milsons Point, and giving accommodation for four lines of railway—two to be used as tramways pending the electrification of the city railways, one footway 15 feet wide, one motor roadway 17 feet 6 inches wide, and one roadway 35 feet wide. The distance across the bridge, including approaches, is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and a headway 170 feet above water level will be provided. The cost, including £100,000 (\$487,000) for land resumption, was estimated at £3,193,000 (\$15,539,000).

It is proposed to tax property owners in a declared betterment area to meet the interest charge on the capital expended.

New Industries at Sydney.

One result of the war has been the establishment of new industries at Sydney. One of the largest retailers is now holding an exhibition at the company's workrooms of the various articles manufactured. At present the firm is carrying on not less than 24 different industries and employs 700 hands. A new line manufactured is leather goods, such as pocket wallets, leather cases, music cases, and book carriers, most of which were previously imported from Germany. Other examples of new local manufactures include women's knitted golf coats, which until recently also came from Germany. Many lines of men's clothing, trunks, bags, suit cases, and regalia, the bulk of which were previously imported, are now being manufactured in large quantities. It is claimed that the articles are equal to those imported and in many cases cost less, because the raw materials that are imported are not subject to the heavy customs tariff imposed on ready-made material.

Shipbuilding at Sydney.

Outside of the vessels built at the naval shipyard, Sydney, what is stated to be the largest vessel built in the southern hemisphere was

recently launched. It was built for the Victorian Public Works Department and is a steel twin-screw sand-suction hopper dredge of the following dimensions: Length, 233 feet between perpendiculars; over all, 241 feet; breadth, 37 feet; depth, 16 feet 6 inches; tonnage, 1,200. The vessel will be propelled by two sets of triple-expansion engines of 600 horsepower each, supplied with steam from two large return tubular boilers at a working pressure of 160 pounds. The propelling and pumping engines, sand pumps, air and circulating pumps, winches, hydraulic pumps and gear, and the two main boilers were all manufactured by the builders.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN NORTHEASTERN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 16.]

The vintage has now terminated under favorable conditions in most parts of northeastern Spain. In the Provinces of Barcelona and Lerida the grapes were abundant and of fine quality. In Tarragona a dry summer reduced the quantity of the fruit, but the flavor is rich and the vines show no signs of disease. In the Province of Saragossa black rot was detected in the vineyards, and its ravages were checked by energetic treatment. Phylloxera is reported to have reappeared in Navarre, although not in dangerous form; nevertheless, nitrogenous manures are being used and American vines planted.

Although the olives are still largely ungathered, it is evident that the crop has suffered from unusual heat and lack of rain, conditions which have reduced the size of the fruit. In Aragon a moderate crop is expected; in Urgel there are prospects of the greatest yield of a decade; while the Tortosa crop is a failure, the olives being few and dry. Only half the usual yield is looked for in the Ebro district.

Reports from Saragossa, Teruel, Huesca, and Navarre indicate good cereal crops, but difficulty is experienced in transporting the grain owing to the lack of freight cars. This is partially due to the reduced number of ships in the coastwise trade, which has resulted in overtaxing the railroads. Winter seeding has begun, and in the meantime farmers complain of lack of rain. The rice crop of the Ebro district is stated to be abundant and of excellent quality.

The citrus fruits of Tarragona are in good condition, but orange growers fear a poor season on account of restricted foreign markets. It is expected here that there will be a demand in Canada for Spanish figs owing to lessened shipments from Greece and Turkey.

FISHERY PRODUCTS LANDED AT SEATTLE.

A statement issued by the United States Bureau of Fisheries of the quantities and values of certain fishery products landed at Seattle, Wash., by American fishing vessels during the month of October, 1916, shows that there were 51 trips and that the ships landed 1,327,948 pounds of fresh halibut, valued at \$129,325, and 704,000 pounds of fresh black cod, valued at \$17,682, a total of 2,031,948 pounds, valued at \$147,007.

A statement of other fishery products taken in Puget Sound and landed in Seattle by collecting vessels in October covered quantities of sturgeon, salmon, trout, smelt, perch, red rockfish, flounders, and sole, amounting to 2,995,205 pounds, valued at \$113,681.

SUPPLEMENT TO COMMERCE REPORTS



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CEYLON.

By Vice Consul John A. Nye, Colombo, August 23.

Ceylon's trade in 1915 was affected by the shortage of ocean tonnage, heavy increases in freight and insurance charges, export restrictions on certain products, and occasional losses of steamers laden with cargo. Despite these handicaps and restrictions, however, the total trade of Ceylon for 1915 was the largest recorded in its history. This was due to the great increase, in both quantity and value, in the exports of the staple products of the island.

Trade Returns for Ten Years.

The total value of Ceylon's imports and exports for 1915, exclusive of specie and bunker coal, was \$141,781,823, of which \$53,089,540 represents imports and \$88,692,283 exports and reexports. These figures indicate a trade balance in favor of Ceylon of \$35,602,743, or an excess in value of exports over imports equivalent to 67 per cent.

The following table shows the annual value of Ceylon's imports and exports (excluding treasure and coal for steamers) for the last 10 years:

Year.	Imports.	Exports and reexports.	Total.
1906.....	\$36,592,595	\$35,594,111	\$72,186,713
1907.....	38,952,093	41,971,373	80,923,466
1908.....	39,717,260	41,839,625	81,556,882
1909.....	40,697,439	47,669,140	88,366,576
1910.....	43,728,475	54,008,935	102,737,410
1911.....	50,931,526	58,568,763	109,500,485
1912.....	56,890,615	64,547,602	121,428,224
1913.....	60,368,312	75,588,731	135,957,048
1914.....	55,905,553	70,844,514	126,750,067
1915.....	53,089,540	88,692,283	141,781,823

The foregoing table shows that for imports Ceylon was a rapidly expanding market (chiefly manufactures), having made steady annual increases from \$36,592,595 in 1906 to \$60,368,312 in 1913. The first year of the war caused a sharp decline of nearly \$4,500,000, and the second year a still further decline of nearly \$3,000,000, but these were not the result of a decreased purchasing power, but of the difficulty in getting orders filled and commodities transported. The trade balance of 1915 indicates that the island was never in a more prosperous condition.

Exports (including reexports) for 1915, which exceeded those of 1914 by nearly \$18,000,000 and those of 1913 by over \$13,000,000, were more than double the value of those in 1908. Due allowance must be made for prevailing conditions in making permanent deductions from these statistics.

Distribution of Trade.

The following table shows the distribution of the trade of Ceylon (including specie) with the principal countries of the world in 1914 and 1915:

Countries	Imports from.		Exports and reexports to.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
British Empire:				
United Kingdom.....	\$16,709,692	\$11,630,980	\$37,491,133	\$47,711,755
Australasia.....	1,144,731	623,506	5,172,160	6,081,510
British Africa.....	722,453	853,885	781,798	1,582,722
British America.....	3,530	1,390	1,402,783	1,533,747
British India.....	21,275,081	26,939,382	2,018,341	2,798,989
Hongkong.....	483,227	522,860	112,655	55,538
Maldivo Islands.....	679,116	735,998	61,659	65,009
Straits Settlements.....	4,997,592	5,528,270	282,968	372,755
Austria-Hungary.....	339,230	8,600	583,836	.....
Belgium.....	414,456	30,613	2,179,529	37
Borneo.....	255,058	301,086	6,614	6,166
China.....	297,081	399,337	899,962	1,246,466
Denmark.....	22,904	43,369	817,229	1,813,138
France.....	467,636	337,727	402,371	797,092
Germany.....	1,394,506	98,147	3,807,070	.....
India (not British).....	257,280	217,063	66,212	22,787
Italy.....	258,944	112,167	65,501	47,563
Japan.....	953,793	1,711,822	219,476	179,300
Java.....	836,482	1,171,995	14,701	6,078
Netherlands.....	477,613	329,667	438,814	814,170
Norway.....	61,602	190,989	237,915	776,203
Persia.....	492,659	265,010	289	18,268
Philippines.....	5,563	6,800	117,162	113,501
Russia:				
In Asia.....	55,977	11,405	905,223	1,779,141
In Europe.....	18,054	198	2,147,522	3,171,477
Spain.....	612,506	414,429	578	1,097
Sweden.....	25,507	16,662	173,161	196,601
Switzerland.....	131,222	154,353	45,712	19,979
United States.....	120,857	180,473	4,107	4,769
All other countries.....	742,209	1,567,088	10,200,612	17,071,769
	148,244	243,592	468,061	158,860
Total.....	57,414,047	54,649,510	71,172,253	88,692,670

Imports from Japan increased by 79 per cent, but the exports thereto declined by over 18 per cent. Imports from the United Kingdom declined by \$5,078,712 from 1914 to 1915, while the exports advanced from \$37,491,133 to \$47,711,755—a total gain of \$10,220,622. This is explained by the fact that Ceylon importers have found it increasingly difficult to get orders filled by British manufacturers, while Ceylon's staple exports, principally tea, rubber, coconut oil, copra, and plumbago, were in increasing demand.

Exports of Ceylon tea to Russia alone showed a remarkable increase of 11,188,195 pounds over the shipments in 1914, which is accounted for by the increased use of tea in Russia consequent upon the abolition of the vodka traffic. In 1915 Russia took 25,097,635 pounds of Ceylon tea, this being two and a half times the quantity sent to America and more than 11 per cent of the total exportation. Exports of Ceylon tea in 1915 increased 22,000,000 pounds over 1914, while at the same time the average price increased from 15 cents to 18.4 cents per pound, the highest received for the last 28 years. The total exportation amounted to no less than 215,632,727 pounds, constituting a record for the island.

Ceylon's Export Trade—Articles Exported.

Ceylon's exports from 1906 to 1913 showed steady annual increases, rising from a total valuation (including that of goods reexported)

of \$35,594,111 in 1906 to no less than \$75,588,731 in 1913. The first effects of the war was registered in Ceylon by a decrease in the value of the exports of \$4,744,217 in 1914, but the increase in 1915 of \$17,847,769 shows the stability of the island's industries and the rapidity with which they adapted themselves to the changed conditions.

Tea, rubber, coconut oil, desiccated coconut, and plumbago were the six leading exports in the order named. Together they made up \$82,098,591, or more than 92 per cent, of the total exports, tea and rubber alone constituting more than 76 per cent of the total.

The quantity and value of the principal exports from Ceylon in 1914 and 1915 are shown in the following table:

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Animals, live.....Number.....	1,007	\$46,191	227	\$11,673
Areca nuts.....hundredweights.....	93,200	583,470	171,854	1,085,460
Cacao.....do.....	54,770	670,714	83,843	1,015,133
Cardamoms.....do.....	3,806	200,566	5,190	272,339
Cinnamon.....do.....	36,431	524,596	57,607	648,111
Coconuts:				
Desiccated.....do.....	311,864	2,543,118	349,009	2,905,336
Fresh.....number.....	11,429,594	289,608	5,827,069	164,102
Coffee.....hundredweight.....	299	5,554	185	1,860
Colr:				
Fiber.....do.....	227,831	419,279	196,743	292,125
Rope.....do.....	17,031	55,254	21,491	69,724
Yarn.....do.....	109,123	441,828	97,343	334,366
Copra.....do.....	1,411,947	7,542,403	1,208,529	5,728,475
Fertilizers.....do.....	8,362	10,987	2,581	4,221
Fish, cured.....do.....	3,392	25,270	4,310	36,116
Kftul (fiber).....do.....	1,864	33,500	1,802	32,592
Oils, vegetable:				
Cinnamon.....ounces.....	47,065	3,009	101,035	13,427
Citronella.....pounds.....	1,443,550	447,224	1,088,084	480,337
Coconut.....hundredweight.....	486,286	4,344,910	501,510	4,204,837
Palm-ya fiber.....do.....	1,784	11,542	2,588	20,577
Plumbago.....do.....	284,562	1,380,201	430,351	2,569,434
Ponac.....do.....	211,563	296,782	219,292	323,245
Rubber.....pounds.....	37,343,753	20,037,753	51,526,730	27,061,605
Shells, chank.....number.....	1,868,805	18,577	1,512,950	19,634
Skins, dressed.....hundredweight.....	9,531	191,124	7,569	151,073
Tea.....pounds.....	193,583,042	29,110,114	215,632,727	39,729,404
Textiles.....do.....		55,380		48,447
Timber.....tons.....	2,765	51,164	2,927	27,771
Tobacco.....pounds.....	4,821,224	313,496	3,119,188	188,448
All other articles.....		1,124,554		1,346,711
Total.....		70,844,514		88,692,283

• 1 hundredweight=112 pounds.

The total for 1915, \$88,692,283, includes the value of foreign goods reexported, \$2,479,558, principally rubber (from the Straits Settlements and British India), 2,722,914 pounds, worth \$1,432,357; cured fish (from British India), 2,890 hundredweight, to the value of \$33,569; and textiles, practically all of which were reexports.

Prosperous Year for Tea Trade.

The year 1915 was the most prosperous that the Ceylon tea industry has ever experienced, the exports amounting to 215,632,727 pounds, of the value of \$39,729,404—the first time the exports have exceeded 200,000,000 pounds—an increase in quantity of 11.3 per cent over 1914. At the same time the average price of tea rose during the year by about 20 per cent, the value of the tea exported exceeding that in 1914 by \$10,619,290.

The prosperity of 1915 was due to a well-distributed rainfall, and an increased demand that resulted in high prices. The first quarter of the year, instead of being dry, as is usually the case, was punctuated with constant showers, which gave the bushes a good start. Rain was plentiful until the last quarter of the year, which was deficient through partial failure of the northeast monsoon.

The most notable increases in the exports of tea were to Russia, the United Kingdom, and Egypt; while decreases are noted in the cases of Canada, Australia, and the United States. The shipments to America amounted to approximately 500,000 pounds less than in 1914.

Germany and Austria, which together purchased over 600,000 pounds in 1914 and approximately 1,000,000 pounds in 1913, disappeared entirely from the list of buyers; as did Arabia, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Turkey.

Exports of green tea in 1915 amounted to 5,154,033 pounds as against 4,394,918 pounds in 1914. Green tea goes almost entirely to the United States and Russia in about equal proportions.

Increased Production and Export of Rubber—Advance in Prices.

The rapidity with which the Ceylon rubber estates are coming into bearing is shown by the continued increases in the annual exports. In 1908 the shipments amounted to 7,808 hundredweight of 112 pounds; in 1909, 13,621 hundredweight; in 1910, 33,952 hundredweight; in 1911, 61,212 hundredweight; in 1912, 132,569 hundredweight; in 1913, 226,491 hundredweight; in 1914, 306,724 hundredweight; and in 1915, 435,748 hundredweight.

It will be noted that the quantity exported practically doubled each year from 1908 to 1914. As in the case of tea, the rise in quantity exported has been accompanied by considerable rise in price, from an average of 46.06 cents to one of 53.53 cents per pound, with the result that the value of the rubber exported advanced from \$20,037,753 to \$27,061,605, a figure very nearly approaching that of the total value of tea exported in 1914. It is thus seen that rubber will be a serious competitor with tea for premier honors among the staple products exported from Ceylon.

The United Kingdom and the United States continued as the principal buyers, their purchases being 55.12 and 39.72 per cent, respectively, of the total, as against 62.9 and 23.19 per cent in 1914. The first sale of best latex crêpe in January brought 47.7 cents (gold), while at the end of the year it was 81.1 cents. Ribbed smoked sheet was at a premium over first latex crêpe the first six months of the year, but declined to the same level the last half of the year. Ordinary biscuit and sheet also enjoyed a good market, but only a few estates continue to manufacture this grade.

Products of the Coconut Palm.

Of the three greatest agricultural industries in Ceylon, coconut fared the worst during 1915. Climatic conditions were not particularly favorable during the year for coconut products, and it is estimated that there was a shortage of some 28,000,000 nuts as compared with 1914. Coconuts exported decreased in number by 5,500,000; coir fiber, by 32,000 hundredweight of 112 pounds; and copra, by 203,000 hundredweight. Desiccated coconut, however, rose by 37,000 hundredweight, and poonac by 7,000 hundredweight. Coconut oil, although showing an increase in quantity of 15,000 hundredweight,

declined in value by \$140,480, as a result of a fall in prices. The exportation of coconut products was seriously affected by shortage of tonnage and consequent rise in cost of freight. Pound for pound, rubber is worth 20 times as much as copra, and consequently it could much better afford the high freights. The loss of the German market and the decline in shipments to the United Kingdom were made up to some extent by increased shipments to other European countries. The year closed with a restoration of the market to normal conditions.

Cacao, Cinnamon, and Tobacco.

Cacao, having experienced more favorable conditions at the critical periods of its growth, more than recovered from the serious decrease in exports in 1914, and reached a figure considerably higher than that of 1913. The exports in 1915 totaled 83,843 hundredweight, as compared with 54,770 hundredweight in 1914, the value being \$1,015,133, as compared with \$670,714. The greater part of the cacao goes to Great Britain, the next best customers being the Philippine Islands, the United States, and New Zealand, in the order named. The average price, \$12.15 per hundredweight, was slightly lower as compared with 1914.

Cinnamon, the export of which had fallen in 1914 by nearly 10,000 hundredweight, rose again in 1915 by 21,000 hundredweight. The leading customers were the United Kingdom, the United States, and Spain, in the order named. There were no exports of wild cinnamon. Prices for both quills and chips showed a sharp decline as compared with previous years. In one province alone last year 2,000 acres of cinnamon were uprooted and planted with coconut, and in another large areas were replaced by rubber. It is stated that the more extended use of cassia bark from China was a decisive factor in influencing the price.

The exportation of locally manufactured tobacco again decreased. Local methods of production and manufacture are at present the subject of exhaustive inquiry and experiment by an American tobacco expert, and it is hoped that in time a better quality of tobacco may be produced.

Precious and Semiprecious Stones—Plumbago.

The only mineral products of any importance in Ceylon are precious and semiprecious stones and plumbago (graphite). The market for stones was poor, owing largely to the cessation of tourist trade. Prices were generally kept up, nevertheless, production being curtailed.

Plumbago, or graphite, recovered quickly from the slump of 1914. The exports rose from 284,562 hundredweight of 112 pounds in 1914 to 436,351 hundredweight in 1915. During the first half of the year the plumbago industry was quiet, but with the removal of the embargo on exports to America prices rose quickly and reached \$438 per ton for ordinary lumps. The United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia took most of the increased exports. [A comprehensive report on the plumbago situation in Ceylon was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 4, 1916.]

Cardamons and citronella oil had a good year, especially the latter, which showed a big increase in shipments to the United States.

Declared Exports to the United States.

The total value of exports from Ceylon to the United States in 1915, as declared at the consulate, greatly exceeded that of any previous year. The exports for 1915 were valued at \$17,774,767, as compared with \$10,983,925 in 1914 and \$12,780,407 in 1913.

The largest item was raw rubber, valued at \$11,449,319, representing nearly two-thirds of the total exports to the United States. Rubber and plumbago exports showed the greatest increases over 1914, both products having more than doubled in value.

The following table shows the value of exports from Ceylon to the United States and possessions in 1914 and 1915, according to the invoices certified at the American consulate at Colombo:

Articles.	1914	1915	Articles.	1914	1915
TO UNITED STATES.			TO UNITED STATES—con.		
Cacao.....	\$82,494	\$70,913	Tea.....	\$1,921,546	\$2,160,541
Cardamoms.....	47,421	63,155	Tea fluff.....	20,365	11,370
Cardamom seeds.....	3,308	.....	All other articles.....	4,395	2,623
Cinnamon.....	115,992	198,175	Total.....	10,983,925	17,774,767
Citronella oil.....	192,748	274,040	TO PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.		
Coconut, desiccated.....	649,085	325,331	Cacao.....	129,062	122,060
Coconut oil.....	2,207,683	1,169,107	Milk, canned.....	2,329	.....
Cork yarn.....	35,790	10,658	Tea.....	13,127	16,379
Croton seeds.....	.....	2,253	All other articles.....	6	48
Crude drugs.....	20,035	21,019	Total.....	135,518	138,876
Fiber:			TO HAWAII.		
Bristle.....	631	1,006	Tea.....	5,077	10,338
Mattress.....	10,611	10,564			
Twisted.....	1,806	2,933			
Papain.....	26,445	20,400			
Plumbago (graphite).....	876,304	1,957,197			
Precious stones.....	15,044	24,158			
Rubber.....	4,752,219	11,449,319			

Imports by Articles.

The total value of Ceylon's imports, including specie, in 1915 was \$54,649,510, as compared with \$57,414,047 in 1914, a decrease of \$2,764,537.

A classified list of the principal articles imported, with their quantities and values, for the years 1914 and 1915 is given in the following table:

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Animals, live.....number..	148,010	\$316,735	119,992	\$197,691
Food and drink:				
Bacon.....hundredweight..	1,355	37,939	1,363	40,968
Beer and ale.....gallons..	152,557	105,555	152,396	113,659
Biscuits.....pounds..	1,315,490	171,131	666,395	125,501
Butter.....do.....	467,602	118,599	400,480	116,155
Coffee.....do.....	1,451,762	279,002	1,522,066	274,305
Confectionery.....do.....	1,052,870	123,977	952,612	126,833
Curry stuffs.....hundredweight..	199,577	713,079	216,373	808,626
Fish—				
Cured.....do.....	198,658	517,693	243,119	638,677
Tinned.....pounds..	388,135	49,339	362,663	47,833
Other.....hundredweight..	71,764	678,006	73,591	736,199
Flour, wheat.....do.....	212,648	642,209	188,558	497,374
Fruit—				
Fresh.....do.....	11,061	51,605	7,523	26,720
Preserved.....do.....	14,352	93,532	11,414	80,467
Ghee.....do.....	3,408	45,083	3,170	41,138
Grain—				
Beans.....do.....	42,978	94,450	52,307	115,276
Gram.....do.....	95,318	156,254	87,135	142,845
Oats.....do.....	28,066	61,333	20,518	61,690

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Food and drink—continued.				
Grain—continued.				
Paddy..... hundredweight..	550,538	\$599,781	559,012	\$600,326
Peas..... do.....	170,172	389,415	199,571	439,634
Rice..... do.....	7,400,269	16,734,381	7,173,778	16,432,907
Ham..... do.....	1,422	42,121	1,325	39,695
Meat, frozen..... do.....	3,266	38,702	5,590	87,554
Milk, preserved..... do.....		175,450		162,015
Onions..... hundredweight..	294,371	298,098	257,947	244,572
Potatoes..... do.....	143,604	273,037	102,155	168,330
Seeds, sesame..... do.....	26,398	84,793	36,725	112,064
Spirits—				
Brandy..... gallons..	72,601	150,600	40,633	112,391
Gin..... do.....	137,986	161,839	76,085	101,545
Whisky..... do.....	104,759	228,925	105,581	249,085
Sugar..... hundredweight..	503,215	1,711,282	467,762	2,294,175
Wine—Champagne..... gallons..	3,610	32,191	2,142	17,209
Manufactured articles:				
Acids..... do.....	63,211	63,697	13,362	14,400
Automobiles..... number..	459	844,753	273	541,789
Books..... do.....	799,766	164,859	595,691	166,187
Bran..... hundredweight..	57,873	73,429	58,626	81,529
Bricks and tiles..... number..	5,338,403	106,053	4,519,369	83,360
Candles..... hundredweight..	15,488	128,488	12,350	99,626
Casks and shooks..... number..	18,773	66,471	26,035	100,192
Cement..... hundredweight..	358,147	219,246	331,372	231,671
Chemicals..... do.....	8,330	275,656	9,561	278,521
China ware..... do.....	26,239	176,128	9,156	68,480
Cycles and parts..... do.....		145,227		52,204
Earthenware..... pieces..	1,611,304	73,887	1,514,965	62,910
Electrical goods..... hundredweight..	2,093	58,620	2,163	40,727
Embroidery..... yards..	1,162,327	61,861	1,067,111	57,774
Explosives..... do.....		98,157		63,392
Fancy articles..... cases..	11,845	160,920	8,213	100,403
Furniture..... pieces..	16,650	43,685	6,404	17,920
Glass..... hundredweight..	21,015	127,644	18,041	134,845
Gunny bags..... do.....	20,802	161,260	15,111	107,203
Haberdashery..... do.....		717,218		549,434
Hats and bonnets..... cases..	727	73,780	748	72,624
Jewelry..... do.....		160,608		138,273
Lamps..... number..	322,040	75,524	156,985	34,639
Leather goods..... cases..	3,039	57,288	5,624	52,594
Machinery..... hundredweight..	54,996	764,385	62,645	678,326
Matches..... gross boxes..	302,674	89,463	354,259	115,741
Musical instruments..... number..	4,522	54,809	1,396	25,434
Painter's colors..... hundredweight..	11,477	83,677	12,239	96,339
Paper..... reams..	199,890	182,347	120,465	136,357
Perfumery..... gallons..	3,145	63,893	1,761	47,862
Poonac, sesame..... hundredweight..	473,961	615,072	435,026	559,984
Shoes..... pairs..	114,256	142,870	75,452	92,273
Soap..... hundredweight..	33,486	254,756	29,061	226,333
Stationery..... cases..	2,590	110,224	2,275	90,021
Tea chests..... number..	2,706,339	903,544	3,221,127	962,496
Umbrellas..... dozen..	21,760	113,062	22,238	113,049
Watches..... number..	24,843	66,597	14,424	41,158
Metals:				
Barbed wire..... hundredweight..	38,365	118,132	5,318	20,509
Brassware..... do.....	1,796	66,597	1,997	71,045
Hardware..... do.....	107,693	791,364	36,953	363,481
Iron—				
Galvanized..... do.....	92,745	334,358	78,919	390,832
Hoop..... do.....	27,194	65,223	42,054	178,325
Lead—				
Pig..... do.....	74,524	301,544	96,073	502,822
Ten..... do.....	32,396	198,700	24,578	169,431
Nails and rivets..... do.....	15,172	46,445	32,618	132,149
Steel, cast..... do.....	94,348	166,352	54,809	147,170
Steel ware..... do.....	35,471	82,090	591	7,271
Tin slabs..... do.....	875	32,821	1,237	48,659
All other..... do.....		336,873		363,128
Narcotics:				
Cigarettes..... pounds..	318,904	317,761	214,810	222,370
Cigars..... do.....	22,800	24,968	22,890	22,572
Tobacco—				
Manufactured..... do.....	36,006	22,408	17,327	12,847
Not manufactured..... do.....	10,924	3,797	7,357	2,115
Raw materials and miscellaneous:				
Coal..... tons..	598,957	3,571,121	641,596	3,945,252
Cotton—				
Raw..... hundredweight..	4,746	65,687	8,064	73,088
Waste..... do.....	1,892	13,458	2,401	17,715

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Raw materials and miscellaneous—Continued.				
Hides..... hundredweight..	1,131	\$9,005	530	\$3,920
Manure—				
Natural..... do.....	1,076,480	1,601,890	1,570,707	2,359,907
Manufactured..... do.....	161,281	379,614	1,185	3,632
Oil—				
Castor..... do.....	4,918	34,883	4,094	34,265
Kerosene..... gallons..	5,186,153	775,515	5,675,959	983,503
Liquid fuel..... do.....	3,566,302	182,223	7,514,182	365,677
Lubricating..... do.....	269,079	87,579	261,268	92,151
Petrol..... do.....	701,082	192,695	607,774	183,804
Precious stones.....				
Rubber..... pounds.....	3,202,385	1,805,705	3,005,906	1,611,338
Seeds—				
Cotton..... hundredweight..	34,347	71,341	34,929	66,946
Tea..... do.....	853	32,605	654	28,634
Timber..... tons.....	10,422	430,651	7,844	368,087
All other.....		309,318		258,001
Textiles:				
Apparel.....		416,831		292,659
Lace and net..... yards.....	1,916,096	80,902	1,929,965	61,969
Piece goods—				
Dyed..... do.....	17,094,517	1,496,932	14,385,944	1,165,768
Bleached..... do.....	20,444,911	1,314,640	9,788,072	750,306
Gray..... do.....	4,694,289	297,827	4,742,470	309,019
Printed..... do.....	7,032,178	451,195	4,373,334	303,589
Muslin..... do.....	185,774	13,806	78,547	4,365
Other.....		353,382		190,588
Silk and satin..... yards.....	709,846	209,140	410,041	134,051
Thread..... cases.....	661	80,895	1,424	112,271
Woolens..... yards.....	395,435	202,404	95,507	97,164
Yarn and twist, dyed..... pounds..	190,114	47,954	199,183	49,770
Mixed materials.....		256,857		210,473
All other articles.....		5,291,709		4,660,184
Total.....		55,905,553		53,039,540
Specie.....		2,122,338		1,559,979
Grand total.....		57,414,047		54,649,519

More than one-half of the cement came from the United Kingdom, Japan and Denmark supplying most of the remainder. Japan occupies the place formerly held by Germany in this trade. The article supplied by Japan is cheap; it is put up in strong barrels to prevent wastage, and is said to be gaining in popularity. The higher cost of transportation from England, as well as America, is a handicap in this as in many other commodities. The United Kingdom supplied by far the greater part of the confectionery.

Imports of Cotton Goods.

There were large decreases in the values of cotton lace, net, and piece goods—bleached, dyed, printed, muslin, etc., but yarn and twist show considerable increases in consequence of the demand created in the local weaving industry. The following table shows the value of the receipts of cotton goods from the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries during the last three years:

Sources of supply.	1913	1914	1915
United Kingdom.....	\$2,969,874	\$2,931,795	\$1,856,031
British possessions.....	928,905	609,787	910,559
Foreign countries.....	647,562	696,204	310,280
Total.....	4,546,431	4,237,786	3,076,870

Gasoline and Kerosene.

Imports of gasoline declined by nearly 100,000 gallons, but those of kerosene made a remarkable advance of no less than 489,806 gallons. The fluctuations in the sources of supply of these petroleum products during the last two years are shown in the following table:

Countries.	1914	1915	Countries.	1914	1915
GASOLINE.			KEROSENE—continued.		
	<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>Gallons.</i>		<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>Gallons.</i>
United Kingdom.....	6	.....	Persia.....	3,055,304	1,275,230
Burma.....	28,838	.....	Russia in Asia.....	461,803	.....
Borneo (excluding British).....	628,996	564,214	United States.....	.....	2,569,471
Persia.....	39,267	.....	Case oil.....	1,225,344	1,564,008
Sumatra.....	.....	11,880	United Kingdom.....	1	.....
United States.....	8,975	31,680	British India.....	.....	22
Total.....	701,082	607,774	Borneo (excluding British).....	5,940	7,936
KEROSENE.			Russia in Europe.....	.....	3
Bulk oil.....	3,960,809	4,111,951	United States.....	1,219,403	1,550,047
Borneo (excluding British).....	443,702	267,250	Total.....	5,186,153	5,675,959

Lamps, Manure, Metals, and Metal Ware.

Of the 156,985 lamps imported last year, 101,222 came from Japan. These were principally small glass kitchen lamps of trifling value; most of the better kinds were imported from the United Kingdom, and to a less extent from the United States.

There was an increase in both quantity and value of imported manures—one of the many indications of the satisfactory position of the agricultural industry of the island. The returns show that on the elimination of Germany and Austria as sources of supply imports of basic slag and nitrate of soda were obtained from the United Kingdom and of superphosphates from Japan.

In metals and metal ware there was a decrease of \$114,575, as compared with 1914. The most important head in metals is hardware; this shows the largest decrease, which in the case of the United Kingdom amounted to 50 per cent. Barbed wire also shows a large decrease. The increase in the imports of pig lead for conversion into tea lead more than made up for the decrease of imports of manufactured tea lead, and was due to the demand brought about by increased exports of tea. In 1915 the United States furnished 11 per cent of the total import of metals and hardware; Burma, 15 per cent; and the United Kingdom, 63 per cent.

Imports of Automobiles—Silk and Woolen Goods.

In 1915 imports of automobiles totaled 296, as against 459 in 1914, 407 in 1913, 239 in 1912, and 213 in 1911.

The increased demand for medium-priced cars has been supplied by the United States, imports from that country increasing from 120 cars in 1914 to 174 cars in 1915. [The new import duty of 33½ per cent ad valorem on automobiles, that was imposed in August, 1916, was treated of fully in a report published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 19, 1916.]

A continued decline is noted in the imports of tobacco wares. Although cigar imports remained almost the same as in 1914, there was a heavy decline in the receipts of cigarettes and manufactured tobacco.

There were decreases in the importation of silk broad stuffs, handkerchiefs, scarfs, and lace, whereas silk ribbons and velvet showed increases.

A sharp decline was noticed in the importation of woolen goods during 1915. The supply from Germany, which formerly sent between one-fifth and one-sixth of the total, ceased, except for small quantities reexported from other countries, and British mills were unable to meet the deficiency.

Market for American Piece Goods, Iron and Steel Products, Etc.—Credits.

American piece goods are beginning to find their way into Ceylon, although confined largely to gray drills. In view of the rise in the cost of production of English cotton goods, there seems to be an excellent opportunity in Ceylon for American cotton-goods manufacturers.

There have been many inquiries at this consulate for information regarding American iron and steel goods. Difficulty has been experienced in getting the goods shipped, however. Several orders are known to have been pending for periods upward of a year or more awaiting shipment. India has turned out fair quantities of pig iron, but rolled sections and bars have been practically unobtainable.

American automobiles, drug and medical supplies, paints and varnishes, and canned goods have been particularly successful in this market during the past year. American products are becoming more and more in evidence in Ceylon, although there is yet much room for systematic work on the part of American exporters.

Many manufacturers in America are requiring established credit in New York to enable them to draw against the railway bill of lading. While such difficult terms of sale may be warranted under present conditions, they make the sale of American goods impossible in many cases. Importers are usually willing to establish credit in an American bank so the exporter may draw against documents f. o. b. steamer port of sailing. But if goods have to be paid for against railway bill of lading, the Ceylon importers are naturally fearful lest the goods may never be placed on board a steamer, especially when the American manufacturer stipulates he can not guarantee that the goods will be shipped.

Commercial Travelers—Prospects for American Trade Extension.

The number of American salesmen visiting this market is on the increase. They invariably report excellent trade results.

The disadvantages under which American exporters trade with Ceylon in normal times, as compared with European competitors—high freights and late deliveries due to distance, lack of American banking facilities, and dependence on foreign bottoms—have been largely nullified by the war. The fact is that Ceylon is now buying American manufactures in large quantities because they are unobtainable elsewhere; whether the United States will be able to retain this business after the war will depend largely on the correction of the last two factors mentioned above. The first two factors, distance and higher freights, are constant, and will always be operative in the case of America's trade with Ceylon; they may, however, be largely offset by decreased cost of quantity production and reputation built upon honest dealing and superior quality. America now occupies a leading position in the opinion of Ceylonese merchants. The

natives must be mainly considered in any well-directed campaign for trade extension, for out of a total population of 4,424,300 in this consular district there are normally only about 7,500 Europeans.

Importance of American Banks and Shipping.

In view of the volume of raw materials purchased by the United States in this market, and its increasing sales, it is believed that the establishment of an American bank in Colombo would be a decisive factor in the furtherance of trade relations, if coincident with the building up of American shipping.

America's competitors in this market, namely, England, France, the Netherlands, Japan, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, transport their manufactures to Ceylon and take back their purchases of raw materials in ships flying their own flags. With the exception of Switzerland, the United States alone pays heavy tolls to foreign shipowners for its participation in the trade of Ceylon. The magnitude of this handicap will be realized when it is recalled that the United States ranks second as a purchaser of Ceylon products and third as a source of supply (Great Britain first and Japan second), the total trade in 1915 amounting to no less than \$18,641,852. It is the opinion of this consulate that the total trade of the United States with Ceylon for 1916 will be well over \$30,000,000. Unless the conditions as regards banking facilities and shipping are remedied it is predicted that the United States will not be able to hold its advanced position as a source of Ceylon supply for manufactures, which has resulted from present abnormal conditions.

Shipping Movements.

The number of vessels entering the ports of Ceylon in 1915 was 4,272, representing a tonnage of 7,883,268, as compared with 4,401 vessels of 9,338,535 tons in 1914. The distribution, according to nationality, omitting warships and vessels calling to coal, for 1914 and 1915, is shown in the following table:

Nationality.	1914		1915	
	Num-ber.	Tons.	Num-ber.	Tons.
British.....	1,840	4,610,513	1,103	3,508,012
Colonial.....	1,141	97,241	1,847	268,938
Total British ships.....	2,981	4,707,754	2,950	3,776,950
American.....			5	11,745
Austrian.....	77	225,906		
Belgian.....			1	1,860
Danish.....	16	45,640		
Dutch.....	120	416,706	83	37,249
French.....	116	403,375	92	302,279
German.....	151	612,852		
Greek.....	4	12,351		
Italian.....	19	52,349	18	2,489
Japanese.....	105	435,057	139	50,453
Norwegian.....	25	31,440	54	573,512
Russian.....	38	98,600		
Siamese.....	1	2,228	10	66,173
Spanish.....	26	63,297	28	13,614
Swedish.....	3	7,312	12	65,283
			28	30,767
Total foreign ships.....	701	2,437,773	457	1,476,110
Grand total.....	3,682	7,145,527	3,407	5,253,060

Freight Rates.

At the beginning of 1915 the freight rate on tea was \$8.03; rubber, \$14.60; and general cargo, \$6.69 to \$7.91, all plus a war surcharge of 20 per cent. In April an all-round advance was made to \$19.47 plus 20 per cent, at which figures freights remained generally throughout the year. At the close of the year freight rates to New York for tea and general cargo were \$18.25 and for rubber \$22.51 plus a war surcharge of 50 per cent. Rates from New York to Colombo were higher.

DETENTION STATIONS FOR LEPERS IN COLOMBIA.

[Vice Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Oct. 7.]

In its report to Congress for the year ended June 30, 1916, the central board of hygiene in Bogota states that the number of lepers under detention in Colombia is 4,715, distributed in three detention stations as follows: Agua de Dios, Department of Cundinamarca, 2,489; Contratacion, Department of Santander, 2,077; Caño de Loro, Department of Bolivar, 149; total, 4,715. The report states that this total represents 87 per cent of all the lepers in Colombia. The interior departments of Cundinamarca, Boyaca, and Santander furnish the majority of all the cases under detention. Their distribution is: Department of Boyaca, 1,363; Department of Cundinamarca, 947; Department of Santander, 1,794; all other Departments, 611.

Three Hospitals at One Station.

The Agua de Dios detention station is in the Department of Cundinamarca, not far from Bogota. It has three hospitals, two for men and one for women, each with a doctor and an apprentice, and each provided with a pharmacy. The management is under the direction of the Sisters of Charity. An additional hospital and quarters for administration are under construction. Besides the hospitals there is a general dispensary which attends to the general needs of the inmates of the station, and where the average number of cases given treatment monthly is 1,600. The three hospital buildings house 289 of the patients. The remainder (2,200) live in separate houses, some of which are privately owned.

At the station are two schools for boys, directed by masters who are themselves leprous, and one for girls, directed by the Sisters of Charity. Besides the ordinary curriculum the children receive instruction in bootmaking, carpentry, printing, and binding. Another school is contemplated for the healthy children of leprous parents in order to keep them segregated from those afflicted with the disease.

Additional Hospital to be Built.

The Contratacion detention station is in the Department of Santander and consists of two hospitals, one for men and one for women, with a capacity of 60 patients each; two asylums for children, one male and one female; two schools for boys and one for girls, and various private houses. Another hospital is to be built this year, and two new school buildings, one for the healthy children of lepers, are projected.

The medical work of the station is in the charge of three physicians, who not only treat the sick in the hospitals but also attend to minor cases at the dispensary and at the private houses.

It is reported that the system of isolation is very defective at this station, as tradespeople and market vendors come into direct contact with the lepers, and many become infected. The board proposes to overcome this by the erection of a market to be divided in such a manner that outsiders can not come into close contact with the inmates.

Located on Island in Bay of Cartagena.

The Caño de Loro detention station is on one of the islands in the Bay of Cartagena. At present it houses only 149 cases of leprosy.

on account of the lack of buildings. The one hospital has a capacity of only 12 patients and is in bad repair. Orders have been given for the construction of a chapel, a prison, a house for the clergyman, and another for the doctor and administrator. A 40-bed hospital, several new houses, and a complete new water-supply system are projected, but lack of funds has prevented their construction, and it is doubtful if they will be built this year.

Each of the three detention stations has a board of inspectors composed of the better class of lepers. They handle many interior details of management and serve in an advisory capacity when changes and improvements are made.

Fourth Leper Station Authorized.

A fourth leper station was authorized by the Government in 1911, to be constructed in the Department of Nariño, and to be used for the concentration of the lepers in the southwestern part of the country. On account of difficulties and objections encountered in locating this station, no actual construction has been commenced, but it is expected that the work will be started soon, with a small hospital sufficient for immediate needs, and that additional lands and buildings will be acquired as the number of inmates increases.

The expense of maintaining the leper stations of Colombia is met by local taxes levied on markets, slaughtering, liquors, weights and measures, public games, etc., at each station, and by the taxes on inheritances and donations throughout the Republic. The latter tax during the fiscal year 1915-16 amounted to \$150,992, but it is reported that the total, including the local taxes, amounts to less than half the cost of maintaining the three stations. The deficit is made up by the Federal Government with appropriations made through the Department of Gobernación.

Large Stations Relatively Cheaper.

The expense of maintenance and operation at the three stations during the 13 months from June 1, 1915, to June 30, 1916, is as follows: Agua de Dios station, \$301,213; Contratacion station, \$226,368; Cano de Loro station, \$43,971; total, \$571,552. Although the two large stations cost actually a great deal more to operate than that at Cano de Loro, they are relatively cheaper, as is shown by the fact that at the Agua de Dios station during this period, with a total ingress of 2,633 lepers, the monthly cost per inmate was \$8.79; that at Contratacion each patient cost \$8.51 per month, with a total of 2,301; while at Cano de Loro, with only 149 inmates, the monthly cost per person was \$22.55.

The expenditures cover the following items: Subsistence, \$393,489; salaries, \$76,537; construction and repairs, \$32,424; asylum and subsistence of healthy children of leprous parents, \$20,319; maintenance of hospitals and asylums, \$26,288; drugs, medicines, disinfection, and laboratory expenses, \$7,113; rents, \$15,382; total, \$571,552.

Problem Has Received Increasing Attention.

The isolation and care of lepers in Colombia has been the subject of increasing attention among responsible members of the medical fraternity and of the Government during recent years, and good results undoubtedly have been obtained, notwithstanding the fact that those interested in the work have had to contend with inade-

quate equipment, lack of funds, and the absence of an awakened public opinion alive to the dangers of the disease.

At Bogota a laboratory is maintained for the examination of persons suspected of leprosy. At this laboratory 381 cases were examined during the 13 months ended June 30, 1916, with the result that 200 were found to be infected and were sent to detention stations, while 181 were discharged as healthy.

The operation of these leper stations offers an opportunity for the sale of drugs, medicines, laboratory supplies, and hospital and school equipment. Those interested should address Dr. Manuel N. Lobo, Presidente, Junta Central de Higiene, Bogota, Colombia. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

UTILIZING OLD TIN IN ENGLAND.

[J. F. Butler, secretary to commercial attaché, London, Nov. 8.]

In order to utilize the supplies of old tin that are accumulating in the country an industry new to Great Britain has come into being. A Birmingham company is negotiating with municipalities for the installation of detinning works, its plan of action being thus set forth in a recent issue of the *London Times*:

The Germans before the war created a profitable industry by collecting and utilizing stores of old tin such as are found in almost every household. A great amount of this material was imported—much of it from Great Britain. This traffic has, of course, now stopped, and large quantities of old tin are accumulating in the United Kingdom.

For the utilization of this refuse special machinery is necessary, and it is in order to provide this that the British De-Tinning Co., of Birmingham, has been formed and has entered into negotiations with local authorities who, by reason of their organization for carting away refuse, are perforce large collectors of such material. We understand that an agreement on the subject has already been entered into with, among others, the Southwark Borough Council, which before long will be in possession of a plant erected by the De-Tinning Co. at a cost of £3,000 [nearly \$15,000]. The works, when finished, will be handed over to the council, the consideration being that the company is to receive 50 per cent of the profits.

A conference of representatives of local authorities and municipal engineers is to be held in London on November 27-29, and from the numerous acceptances already received a representative gathering may be anticipated. The scheme is a most attractive one, and if the process can be demonstrated to be sound financially it should have a great future.

SMALLER SHIPMENTS OF SWISS CHOCOLATE AND CHEESE.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 7.]

A striking decline in Swiss chocolate and cheese exports is noticeable for the first half of 1916 when contrasted with those for the like period last year. Cheese suffered most in comparison. The falling off may be attributed to the policy of the Swiss Government to conserve the nation's food stocks. The export figures are:

Articles.	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Cocoa powder and chocolate paste	825, 630	2, 068, 375	1, 249, 800
Chocolate	16, 480, 43	23, 801, 980	20, 414, 330
Milk, condensed and sterilized	40, 779, 560	47, 985, 370	40, 779, 555
Cheese	41, 642, 135	44, 810, 935	24, 587, 986

AUSTRIAN COAL PRODUCTION.

[Vice Consul Robert S. Townsend, Carlsbad, Oct. 10.]

The Austrian coal production during the month of August, 1916, was greater by 298,700 metric tons than during the same month in 1915. Of this total 128,500 metric tons were hard coal and 170,200 metric tons were brown coal. The statement of the Ministry of Labor contains the following table, showing the production of hard coal during August, 1915 and 1916, by districts:

Districts.	August, 1915.	August, 1916.	Increase.	Districts.	August, 1915.	August, 1916.	Increase.
	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>		<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>
Ostrau-Karwin.....	820,100	950,500	130,400	Galicia.....	152,000	159,500	7,500
Rossitz-Oslawan.....	36,600	40,000	4,000	Other mining districts	19,900	21,100	1,300
Kladno-Schlan.....	236,500	262,500	a 34,000	Total.....	1,393,300	1,521,800	128,500
Pilsen-Mies.....	92,700	102,400	9,700				
Schatzlar-Schwadowitz.....	36,100	35,800	a 300				

a Decrease.

Hard-coal Output During Eight-month Periods—Brown Coal.

The production of hard coal during the first eight months of 1915 and 1916, respectively, with the increase or decrease in 1916, is shown by districts in the following table:

Districts.	Jan.-Aug., 1915.	Jan.-Aug., 1916.	Increase over 1915.	Districts.	Jan.-Aug., 1915.	Jan.-Aug., 1916.	Increase over 1915.
	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>		<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>
Ostrau-Karwin....	6,280,000	7,250,000	970,000	Galicia.....	1,020,000	1,250,000	230,000
Kladno-Schlan....	1,893,000	1,702,000	a 191,000	All other mining districts.....	148,000	160,000	12,000
Pilsen-Mies.....	782,000	808,000	26,000	Total.....	10,693,000	11,765,000	1,072,000
Schatzlar-Schwadowitz.....	289,000	280,000	a 9,000				
Rossitz-Oslawan..	281,000	315,000	34,000				

a Decrease.

The following table shows the production of brown coal during the month of August, 1915 and 1916, respectively, by districts, with the increase or decrease in each case:

Districts.	August, 1915.	August, 1916.	Increase over 1915.	Districts.	August, 1915.	August, 1916.	Increase over 1915.
	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>		<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>
Brux-Teplitz-Komotau.....	1,187,700	1,274,000	86,300	Galicia-Bukowina....	600	100	a 500
Falkenau-Elbogen.....	288,400	344,400	56,000	Other Northern Austria.....	19,200	18,700	a 500
Wolfsegg-Thomasroth.....	30,000	30,400	400	Other Alpine.....	63,800	73,900	10,300
Leoben-Fohnesdorf.....	72,000	82,500	10,500	Total.....	1,808,900	1,979,100	170,200
Voitsberg-Koflach.....	50,300	42,800	a 7,500				
Trifail-Sagor.....	91,500	104,700	13,200				
Dalmatia.....	5,600	7,600	2,000				

a Decrease.

Figures for the production of brown coal during the first eight months of 1915 and 1916 are as follows:

Districts.	January-August, 1915.	January-August, 1916.	Increase over 1915.	Districts.	January-August, 1915.	January-August, 1916.	Increase over 1915.
	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>		<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>	<i>Met. tons.</i>
Brux.....	9,400,000	10,200,000	800,000	All other mining districts.....	1,070,000	1,080,000	10,000
Falkenau.....	2,400,000	2,700,000	300,000	Total.....	14,600,000	15,800,000	1,200,000
Trifall.....	720,000	800,000	80,000				
Leoben.....	600,000	620,000	20,000				
Koflach.....	410,000	400,000	• 10,000				

• Decrease.

Coke Production.

The coke production for the months of January to August, 1916, was, in round numbers, 1,700,000 metric tons, or 500,000 metric tons more than was produced during the first eight months of 1915.

For the Ostrau district the production of coke during August, 1916, was 216,000 metric tons, as against 163,000 metric tons in August, 1915.

AUSTRALIA'S PURCHASES OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

[Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, Oct. 10.]

Statistics of Australia's purchases of foreign motor cars and motor-cycles during the first six months of the current year show a very large increase over those for January-June, 1915; in fact, the imports during the first half of 1916 equal the imports for the whole of 1915. The trade of the United States for the half year made the noteworthy gain of 221 per cent in chassis, 267 per cent in motor-car bodies, and 303 per cent in cycles. Canada likewise increased its shipments materially, an advance accounted for by the fact that the Canadian Ford Co. supplies Australia. By chief countries of origin the imports for the first six months of the last two years were:

Articles and countries of origin.	First 6 months—		Articles and countries of origin.	First 6 months—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
Chassis for motor cars, etc.....	\$2,037,837	\$4,177,754	Bodies for motor cars, etc.....	\$437,474	\$1,064,814
United States.....	841,749	2,707,297	United States.....	229,927	843,355
Belgium.....	23,963	1,313	Canada.....	78,166	156,066
Canada.....	246,886	798,232	France.....	2,482	10,298
France.....	96,804	111,613	Germany.....	1,800	190
Germany.....	16,994	1,659	Italy.....	7,699	10,633
Italy.....	138,092	243,072	United Kingdom.....	117,030	30,834
Switzerland.....	1,552	10,146	Motor cycles, etc.....	300,540	580,729
United Kingdom.....	571,819	303,962	United States.....	88,916	358,544
			United Kingdom.....	209,978	222,151

The Commonwealth's imports of "rubber manufactures not elsewhere specified," under which classification tires fall, reached a value of \$2,558,538 in the first six months of 1916. Of these the United States supplied \$1,793,826 worth, Canada \$164,531, France \$129,055, Italy \$33,204, Japan \$11,120, United Kingdom \$422,266, and all other countries \$4,536 worth.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3841.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving the schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 396, captains' reading-glass cases, navigators' cases, transparent protractors, parallel rulers, stadimeters, and sounding machines; schedule 397, metallic caskets; schedule 398, Hazzard rifle powder, steel springs, steel shaft, ebonite or hard rubber, and electric muffle type furnaces; schedule 399, torpedo-rod bronze and torpedo-bronze tubing; schedule 400, barber chairs, 10,000-gallon storage tanks, and muriatic acid; schedule 401, steel balls for bearings, etc., brass turn buttons, etc., emery cloth, brass spring cotters, brass eyelet grommets, hasps, hinges, etc., bronze hinges, hinges, hasps, and staples, chest locks, padlocks, brass wardrobe locks, garnet paper, and iron screws; schedule 402, rice; schedule 403, radial ball bearings; schedule 404, condenser dynamo main air pumps; schedule 405, main feed water heaters; schedule 406, shafts, rotor, disks, etc., and transmitters and indicators combined; schedule 407, generating sets; schedule 408, marine water-tube boilers; schedule 409, fire and bilge pumps, etc.; schedule 410, steam blowers and evaporators; schedule 411, erecting transfer table for crane; schedule 412, changing 110-ton trolley on crane to 135-ton and to dynamic braking; schedule 413, 24-inch by 10-foot geared lathes, 14-inch by 6-foot geared head lathes, and power gap shears; schedule 414, 12-inch by 8-foot geared head lathes, 14-inch by 10-foot geared head lathes, 14-inch by 9-foot geared head lathes, and milling machines; schedule 415, steel bars, plates, sheets, and shapes, black and galvanized; schedule 416, canned asparagus, canned bacon, canned catsup, canned lard, canned substitute lard, evaporated milk, canned peas, salt, canned spinach, canned tomatoes, sirup, and granulated sugar; schedule 417, black steel pipe, steel tubing, and galvanized steel pipe; schedule 418, boiler steel; schedule 419, candles—fives and sixes; schedule 420, flake and amorphous graphite; schedule 421, concentrated lye; schedule 422, medium steel rivets; schedule 423, paving asphalt, Trinidad asphalt, and Val-de-Travers asphalt; schedule 424, altimeters; schedule 425, carbon steel, steel gear, steel shaft, and hot-rolled or forged carbon steel; schedule 426, hand screw machines; schedule 427, pneumatic riveting machines; schedule 428, ships' use water heaters, paper for blue-print coating, trolley hoists, bath tubs, etc., and unbleached cotton sheeting; schedule 429, sheathing nails, iron or steel nuts, medium hard rod copper, and sheet copper; schedule 430, testing generators, searchlight mirrors, and seamless boiler tubes; schedule 431, interior communication cable, single conductor wire, and twin conductor wire; schedule 432, wheat flour in export bags; schedule 433, steel springs, steel castings, and steel forgings; schedule 434, mushroom anchors, clamps, steel wire rope, steel rings, and shackles, and steel wire nets 1,000 and 1,536 feet long; schedule 435, large steel plate galvanized buoys and buoys (wooden barrels or kegs); schedule 436, shrapnel tracers and combination fuses; schedule 437, wood preservative; schedule 438, Canton flannel, glycerine, and pure sperm oil; schedule 439, meat and food choppers, potato peelers, and electric portable drills; schedule 440, wrought-iron and sheet-tin roofing; schedule 441, paint dryer, dry lampblack, pure lard oil, petroleum, pulverized silica, and whitening; schedule 442, cotton thread, bleached cotton sheeting, and bleached and unbleached muslin; schedule 443, bath and state room crockery, lavatory water heaters, holders for toilet accessories, garden hose, towel racks, white floor tile, galvanized steel buckets, shower bath heads, porcelain ship lavatories, individual urinals, and ships' water-closets; schedule 444, iron or steel deck bolts, steel belts, iron or steel stove bolts, iron or steel tap machine bolts, galvanized anchor boat chains, black iron chains, galvanized wrought iron coil chain, emery cloth, brass spur grommets, claw and machinists' hammers, chest locks, drawer locks, locks and latches, padlocks, rim locks, garnet paper, high-speed reamers, soft-steel rivets, and galvanized anchor shackles; schedule 445, naval bar brass, naval rod brass, phosphor bronze, bar copper, ferromanganese, monel metal, half-and-half

solder, and 5-pound cake wiping solder; schedule 446, condenser-tube packing, rawhide roofing paper, scoop shovels, and brass oil syringes; schedule 447, egg-size coal; schedule 448, pay officers' safes; schedule 449, galvanized range boilers and railroad spikes; schedule 450, bituminous coal; schedule 451, pig lead and sheet lead; schedule 452, bituminous composition daubers, sole leather, ash oars, 6-inch hand billy pumps, galvanized iron pipe fittings, galvanized malleable iron unions, cotton canvas, and turkey red muslin; schedule 453, alcohol, dry asbestos, dry barytes, chrome green in oil, lump rosin, and tallow; schedule 454, phosphor-bronze wire, power hacksaw blades, 1,000-pound chain blocks, $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint brass squirt cans, cord, hasps, etc., breast drills, hand drills, brass spur grommets, hickory handles, bronze hinges, drawer locks, mortise locks, padlocks, rim locks, brass wardrobe locks, copper cut nails, sand or flint paper, steel tapes, and S wrenches; schedule 455, cocoa-fiber mats, condenser-tube packing, water-gauge glasses, castor oil, and electric soldering irons; schedule 456, bar copper, ferromanganese, monel metal, and ingot phosphor tin; schedule 457, composition pipe fittings, seamless brass pipe, steel tubing, and composition unions.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Ex- p- tation of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 501 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendall, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay..	Dec. 1	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW, Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2234 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	Dec. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Ibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Advertising novelties.....	23102	Motor plows and trucks.....	23101
Agricultural machinery.....	23102	Nails.....	23106
Automobiles.....	23101	Paints and varnishes.....	23102
Brass and copper.....	23104	Paper, heliographic, etc.....	23100
Cement.....	23102	Paper and supplies.....	23103
Disinfectants.....	23102	Seed, sugar beet.....	23105
Drugs and chemicals.....	23102	School supplies.....	23103
Hardware.....	23102	Stationery and supplies.....	23102-23103
Insecticides.....	23102	Tin, sheet.....	23107
Leather.....	23102	Tires, cart, steel.....	23106
Lubricating oils and greases.....	23102	Underwear.....	23102
Machinery, paper.....	23100	Wire, copper and brass.....	23104

23100.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to make connections with manufacturers of unprepared heliographic and phototypic and allied papers, as well as machinery for their preparation, with a view to general representation on a commission basis, and eventually for making purchases outright. Samples are requested. Correspondence in German or French. Samples of the paper submitted by the firm may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81748.) The names of three other firms interested in this line will also be furnished.

23101.*—A manufacturers' agent in Denmark wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of automobiles, commercial trucks, and motor plows. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23102.‡—An established import house in Brazil is interested in introducing American products into that country, and desires to secure exclusive agencies from American manufacturers of the following articles: Lubricating oils and greases, varnishes and paints, cement, advertising novelties, stationery, drugs and chemical products, hardware, disinfectants, leather, insecticides, underwear, and agricultural machinery and implements. Correspondence in English. References.

23103.‡—An export firm on the Pacific coast has received orders from Russia for paper of all kinds, including news-print paper, wall paper, wrapping paper, and holders for the same, toilet paper and holders, writing paper, envelopes, tablets, and copy books for schools, etc., schoolbook straps, bags, and penholders, and pens. Samples where practicable are desired. A sample of the newspaper may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 168.)

23104.*—A firm in Spain is in the market for copper and brass in sheets, rods, and bars, seamless copper tubes, soldered brass tubes, and brass and copper wire. Correspondence may be in English, but Spanish is preferred. References. Complete particulars giving quantities, sizes, etc., may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

23105.‡—A firm of wholesale seed merchants in Australia is in the market for sugar-beet seed.

23106.*—A hardware firm in Central America is in the market for nails and square-edge cart tires. Nails, $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{8}$ inches, chisel point, c. s. and barbed; tires, size 4 inches wide by $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick by 1 meter long, 4 holes punched and countersunk for $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch nail, rolled to proper arc; 4 pieces to each wheel. Quantity wanted 1,000 to 2,000 pieces. Sketch showing details of tires and sample of nails may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81655.) Correspondence in English. References.

23107.*—A fruit and vegetable canner in Spain desires to purchase sheet tin for making cans. Correspondence may be in English. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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BRITISH INDUSTRIAL TOUR OF SPAIN.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, France, Oct. 31.]

The London Times Trade Supplement for October, 1916, in an article on potential markets in Spain, comments upon the decision by the British Foreign Office to arrange for representatives of British industries to make a tour of the principal commercial districts of Spain. The tour is said to be of a missionary character, being rather an attempt to ascertain the conditions that will have to be met if a larger share of trade is to be obtained by British houses, than an effort to secure immediate orders. It is pointed out that while in normal years the share of the United Kingdom in Spanish trade is about \$95,000,000, the imports into Spain from Great Britain in 1914 were only about \$40,000,000, and British purchases from Spain about \$42,000,000. In 1915, however, there was a marked recovery from the first shock of the war.

SWISS RAILWAY SURTAX.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 31.]

A surtax has been imposed by the Swiss railways upon passenger, freight, and express traffic since October 1, 1916. Railway tickets from 50 centimes (\$0.0965) to 95 centimes (\$0.1833) pay 5 centimes (\$0.00965) additional; those of 1 franc (\$0.193) and over pay 10 centimes (\$0.0193). Baggage and express charges pay 10 centimes surtax and freight 1 centime per 100 kilos (220 pounds), with a minimum of 10 centimes. Upon living animals the tax is from 2 to 10 centimes, according to accommodation.

[A report on new Swiss tax measures was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 23, 1916.]

The American commercial attaché at The Hague reports that the provincial states of the Province of North Holland in the Netherlands have decided to negotiate a loan of \$8,000,000 to cover expenditures incurred in repairing damage caused by the floods of last winter.

FURTHER CHANGES IN BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from vice consul, London, Nov. 24.]

The proclamation of May 10 prohibiting exports from the United Kingdom has been further amended. The following headings are deleted: From prohibitions to all destinations—Italian, Russian, and Manila hemp, maguey fiber and manufactures thereof. From prohibitions to all non-British destinations—Cocaine and its salts and preparations; emery, corundum, natural or artificial (such as alundum) carborundum and crystolon and manufactures thereof; mica, mica chimneys, mica splittings, micanite and micanite cloth. From prohibitions to European countries—Casein and preparations thereof; other hemp and manufactures thereof; varnishes, spirit, containing gum.

The following headings are added: To prohibitions to all destinations—Barometers; cocaine and its salts and preparations; old hemp ropes, hemp waste, Italian, Russian, and Manila hemp, maguey fiber, and manufactures thereof except tagal braid; thermometers, except clinical thermometers. To prohibitions to all non-British destinations—Casein and preparations thereof; emery and corundum and manufactures thereof; carborundum, alundum, crystolon, and all other artificial abrasives and manufactures thereof; mica, mica splittings, mica powder, micanite, articles made from them and insulating materials containing them. To prohibitions to all European countries except France, French possessions, Russia, Italy, Italian possessions, Spain, and Portugal—Electrical apparatus and plant for generation, distribution, and utilization of electric power not otherwise prohibited; other hemp and manufactures thereof not otherwise specifically prohibited; tagal braid; compounds intended for the purpose of electrical insulation, viz, lead, oxides of zinc, barium, pigments made from zinc salts and barium sulphate; essential oils except turpentine oil; varnishes not otherwise specifically prohibited; wearing apparel manufactured wholly or partly of wool or hair not otherwise specifically prohibited; wool or hair, all manufactures, mixtures, and products of, not otherwise specifically prohibited.

[The above changes are based on the complete embargo list as published in the Board of Trade Journal Supplement, Aug. 17, and on later changes which have been reported in COMMERCE REPORTS. The most recent notice appeared in the issue of Oct. 28.]

NEW ENGLAND FISHING OPERATIONS FOR OCTOBER.

The Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, announces that the fishing fleets landing fishery products at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during the month of October, 1916, included 248 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston, 327 trips aggregating 9,480,326 pounds of fish, valued at \$427,078; at Gloucester, 145 trips aggregating 3,299,629 pounds, valued at \$107,867; and at Portland, 227 trips amounting to 1,148,479 pounds, valued at \$44,702. The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 699 trips, aggregating 13,928,434 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$579,647.

FAR EAST FACES SHORTAGE OF LACQUER SUPPLIES.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 11.]

A rather serious situation in the Chinese and Japanese lacquer-ware trade has been developing of late, and is now at an acute stage in the shortage of good-grade lacquer materials. [The lacquer-ware industry, the origin of the lacquer varnish, and the process of handling the juice of the *Rhus vernicifera* so as to separate it into the various grades of varnish, and other features of the industry were presented in a report from the Hongkong consulate general in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Dec. 3, 1910. Other articles appeared in the issues for Oct. 18 (Yokohama) and Dec. 3 (Foochow) of that year.]

Much the larger consumption of lacquer varnish in recent years has been in Japan, where the consumption is said to have averaged about 260,000 kwan, or 1,000 tons, annually. Of this quantity about 60 per cent is used in the manufacture of the ordinary lacquer ware of commerce and the rest in fine finish for carriages, musical instruments, and other fine wood work generally. Of the total amount consumed about 70 per cent comes from China, practically all from Hongkong's trade territory, and most of it from the vicinity of Foochow.

The demand for lacquer varnish from Japan has so increased in recent years that the supply has been insufficient to meet it, and the Chinese producers, it is stated, have been adulterating their product, with the result that in spite of the demand prices have fallen and production has declined in some districts. Also, as a result of the adulteration there has been a deterioration in the quality of the cheaper lacquer ware in both China and Japan, and the extent to which the industry has been affected by "rush" orders from abroad, which have not permitted good work, has been one of the marked features of the trade.

Cultivation of the Varnish Tree Falling Off.

In the Chinese field, and, according to Japanese reports, in the Japanese field as well, the cultivation of the lacquer varnish tree is falling off, and many of the trees are being allowed to die. Unless something is done at once the industry is in danger of being seriously crippled permanently because of a lack of the principal material required in it, for the *Rhus vernicifera* is a tree of considerable size, much like an ash, and can not be grown in a short time.

In recent years, in spite of the increased demand for the product, the cultivation of the trees has not been profitable as compared with other crops. One explanation for this lies in expensive and wasteful methods of handling the sap, another in the expensive transportation now required to get the varnish to a market, and a third in the fact that much of the product is practically controlled by a monopoly among native exporters. The fact that the great mass of lacquer ware now manufactured is of a poor and cheap quality also reduces the possibility of obtaining good prices for the varnish.

In Japan the subject of a supply of the varnish is being made the subject of governmental inquiry, but at present no action is being taken in China, whence the greater portion of the supply of the varnish comes.

INCREASE IN IMPORT TRADE AT VLADIVOSTOK.

[Compiled in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from Russian official statistics.]

The following table shows, by principal articles, the import trade of the port of Vladivostok, Asiatic Russia, during the years 1914 and 1915 and the first half of 1915 and 1916, and the respective shares of the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, and China during the first six months of 1916. On account of the fluctuations in the exchange value of the ruble, the amounts are stated in the original currency. The normal exchange value of the ruble is \$0.515; the current rate is about \$0.30.

Articles.	1914	1915	Jan. 1-June 30, 1915.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.			
				Total.	From United Kingdom.	From United States.	From Japan.
	Rubles.	Rubles.	Rubles.	Rubles.	Rubles.	Rubles.	Rubles.
Agricultural machinery and parts.....	1,788,000	1,287,000	940,000	2,410,900	.....	2,398,000	12,000
Aluminum.....	.....	1,569,000	1,063,000	189,000	51,000	124,000	14,000
Antimony, metallic.....	567,000	6,216,000	1,506,000	4,407,000	65,000	74,000	3,751,000
Car, carriages, etc.: Automobiles with 4 seats or more....	122,000	3,055,000	2,106,000	740,000	4,000	528,000	.....
Freight and tank cars.....	.....	4,770,000	.....	16,390,000	.....	16,390,000	.....
Trolleys and coal trucks.....	.....	459,000	9,000	9,155,000	.....	9,155,000	.....
Chemicals, dyes, etc.: Dyes.....	.....	435,000	22,000	3,391,000	672,000	416,000	1,139,000
Nitrate of soda.....	1,000	4,178,000	13,000	2,866,000	400,000	1,702,000	77,000
Sulphur.....	.....	655,000	5,000	3,366,000	18,000	7,000	3,318,000
Tanning extracts.....	28,000	2,100,000	297,000	4,276,000	2,271,000	95,000	1,887,000
Coal.....	592,000	814,000	343,000	1,061,000	.....	.....	1,061,000
Copper.....	2,488,000	35,645,000	8,634,000	25,706,000	11,000	10,551,000	15,144,000
Copper, manufactures of.....	92,000	584,000	285,000	3,303,000	17,000	158,000	3,119,000
Copra.....	141,000	1,904,000	746,000	1,656,000	1,561,000	.....	.....
Cotton: Raw.....	135,000	41,444,000	16,399,000	38,946,000	8,743,000	28,416,000	121,000
Textiles.....	65,000	2,055,000	1,076,000	843,000	.....	37,000	786,000
Fat, animal.....	500,000	996,000	444,000	1,546,000	.....	.....	75,000
Fibers: Binder twine.....	189,000	3,007,000	2,890,000	5,213,000	.....	5,200,000	13,000
Jute, raw.....	.....	1,078,000	660,000	1,261,000	1,048,000	213,000	.....
Jute bags.....	225,000	17,920,000	5,052,000	15,820,000	14,816,000	86,000	913,000
India rubber and gutta-percha.....	.....	9,087,000	5,101,000	3,900,000	3,463,000	427,000	10,000
Iron and steel: Cast-iron wares.....	257,000	213,000	37,000	1,399,000	16,000	8,000	1,331,000
Machinery.....	1,054,000	7,022,000	4,048,000	39,917,000	377,000	33,009,000	495,000
Manufactures, forged, stamped, etc.....	72,000	824,000	33,000	8,587,000	4,000	8,574,000	8,000
Manufactures, n. e. s.....	319,000	10,710,000	548,000	22,775,000	50,000	9,062,000	13,630,000
Nails, rivets, etc.: barbed wire.....	878,000	12,245,000	1,343,000	2,451,000	2,000	2,324,000	119,000
Steel in bars, etc.....	71,000	3,300,000	4,000	20,776,000	95,000	20,679,000	9,000
Knitted wares.....	69,000	1,010,000	48,000	4,943,000	.....	339,000	4,541,000
Lead in pigs.....	24,000	14,333,000	5,881,000	2,431,000	500,000	1,174,000	640,000
Leather and manufactures: Boots and shoes.....	27,000	11,028,000	2,929,000	12,014,000	.....	5,362,000	6,652,000
Box and trunk-makers' wares.....	61,000	4,781,000	3,158,000	217,000	.....	.....	217,000
Harness and saddlery.....	218,000	5,450,000	3,650,000	1,977,000	.....	1,650,000	327,000
Leather.....	.....	.....	4,000	3,473,000	.....	2,793,000	628,000
Nickel.....	.....	2,895,000	1,375,000	1,082,000	345,000	1,337,000	.....
Rice.....	1,381,000	4,362,000	2,293,000	856,000	5,000	3,000	817,000
Tea.....	2,143,000	11,017,000	2,393,000	9,246,000	1,233,000	.....	1,000
Tin in pigs, etc.....	78,000	7,926,000	3,204,000	3,374,000	2,095,000	47,000	1,232,000
Woolen textiles.....	1,341,000	28,115,000	19,503,000	21,845,000	2,000	16,933,000	4,910,000
Zinc in pigs, etc.....	45,000	6,215,000	3,037,000	5,354,000	1,805,000	1,471,000	2,578,000
All other articles.....	14,173,000	29,759,000	9,999,000	34,969,000	6,333,000	9,101,000	13,457,000
Total.....	29,141,000	301,091,000	111,090,000	344,701,000	45,592,000	195,926,000	83,022,000

Imports from China at Vladivostok amounted to 14,664,000 rubles during the first half of 1916, the principal items being as follows: Tea, 8,012,000 rubles; animal fat, 1,471,000 rubles; metallic anti-mony, 517,000 rubles; and raw cotton, 417,000 rubles.

NORWAY'S RECENT INCREASE IN LIVING COST.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison. Christiania, Oct. 10.]

To show the effects of the rising cost of living, the Norwegian Government's statistical bureau has obtained data of the retail prices in 17 towns for July, 1914, and for each of the months, June, July, and August, 1916. These prices have been applied to the necessities of a small family for one year. The volume or quantity of these necessities remains uniform for the four periods.

The following table shows the actual money outlay for the four periods; and using the prices and the outlay for July, 1914, as index number 100, the percentages of increase in detail and in total for the three other periods are expressed in index numbers. The table was prepared with the special object of studying the changes for a family having an annual income between \$325 and \$470.

Necessaries.	July, 1914.	June, 1916.	July, 1916.	August, 1916.	Index number.		
					June, 1916.	July, 1916.	August, 1916.
Meat	\$27.42	\$51.82	\$59.49	\$60.59	189	217	221
Pork	6.43	10.48	10.99	12.02	163	171	187
Fish	12.24	18.97	19.10	21.17	155	156	173
Milk, butter, cheese, and eggs	68.74	94.17	96.92	101.74	137	141	148
Bread	32.36	50.81	52.43	43.04	157	162	133
Flour, vegetables, fruits, berries	22.14	36.30	35.86	36.75	164	162	166
Coffee	9.98	10.38	10.48	10.88	104	105	109
Sugar	9.12	16.70	16.97	17.25	183	186	189
Other foods	7.98	12.28	12.76	12.84	154	160	161
Fuel	12.65	34.03	35.42	35.80	269	279	282
Light	9.39	14.00	14.94	15.03	149	159	160
Total yearly cost	218.45	349.94	365.36	367.11			
Average index figure					100	167	168

Produces Tendency Toward Cheaper Articles.

It may be observed that the consumption in such a rising market will have a tendency to change toward the cheaper articles, but the table nevertheless shows the actual increase in cost of living on a uniform quantity of necessities. The prices used are largely those established by the municipal offices of food and provisions. The greatest increase of prices is found in meat and fuel and the smallest increase in coffee and bread.

CONCESSIONS FOR OIL DOCKS AT PERUVIAN PORTS.

The Government of Peru has granted concessions to the West Coast Oil Fuel Co. for the construction of iron docks at Callao and Paita. These docks will be used exclusively for the loading and unloading of oil consumed by incoming and outgoing steamers. Pipe lines will carry the oil from the tanks of the company to the docks. The traffic of the oil docks will be subject to the usual port and customs regulations. The concessions, as published in La Revista Comercial, are for a period of 25 years from the date of the opening of the docks to service.

PROJECTS FOR IMPROVING PHILIPPINE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Oct. 12.]

The Bureau of Science of the Philippine Islands, which is constantly studying the sugar industry in the islands and assisting sugar producers to develop new methods with the object of increased output and higher quality, has issued a statement of preventable losses in sugar production, and a comparison of results between the present method and that of employing a central factory.

In the earliest days of the industry cane sugar was made by the process now largely employed in the Philippine Islands. This is simply the expression of the juice, clarification by means of lime, and evaporation to practical dryness. The high grades are straw-colored and palatable; the low grades contain considerable caramel, which gives a bitter taste. This class of sugar is consumed in its original form by the people of the Orient. The higher grades frequently are refined.

Losses Produced by Antiquated Methods.

Various losses are produced by these antiquated methods. If the milling is irregular through any cause, cane left in the field exposed to the sun soon starts to ferment, and within a short time the loss is appreciable. Juices left in the open kettles, unless limed to alkalinity and then treated with formaldehyde, will soon become worthless for sugar making.

In general the extraction obtained by the ordinary three-roller mill is between 60 and 70 per cent. Recently some of the planters have paid more attention to this important element of production and with three-roller mills are obtaining more than 75 per cent of the sugar from the cane. Some with five-roller mills have obtained as high as 85 per cent sucrose extraction.

In the muscovado process the sugar boiler depends upon his sense of sight and smell in tempering the juice. Frequently either too much or too little lime is added. In either case a poor sugar is obtained.

In the "caua de punto," the last evaporating kettle of the series, the temperature of the boiling sugar reaches about 130° C. Laboratory experiments have shown that at that temperature pure sugar would be completely destroyed in 20 to 30 minutes. There is therefore a considerable loss of sucrose from this source. Experiments carried on by the Bureau of Science show that in 20 minutes the purity of the boiling sirup in the No. 1 caua may drop from 88 to 74 degrees. As the sugar is almost directly proportional to the purity in dense solutions, the loss may amount to more than 20 per cent.

Attempt Production Beyond Capacity of Plant.

The average milling plant in the Philippines probably can handle from 50 to 75 piculs of sugar a day (picul=139.44 pounds). Many, if not the large majority, of the planters try to raise more sugar than they can conveniently care for. In order to handle it they are forced to start milling before the cane is ripe and continue so long that some of the cane becomes overripe before it is cut. This not only yields them a smaller output per ton of cane but also a poorer grade of

sugar. The purity curve of cane grown in the Philippine Islands shows that it increases from November to January and decreases from January to May. November marks the beginning and May the end of the harvest.

In many places sugar cane dies before it ripens, on account of droughts, method of planting, etc.

In the average year high-grade muscovado sugar can be made only from November to February. After the latter month, as the dry season advances, there is a falling off in purity. The year 1915-16 was abnormal. The rainfall was more uniformly distributed than in former years, and the rain continued much later. In fact, the dry season for this year almost disappeared. At times there was too much rain. The average purity was not at any time as great as during an ordinary year, but the season during which a high-grade sugar could be made was very much extended. The purity was high throughout the season, which shows that if the soil has continuous moisture the milling season may be much extended and indicates the possibilities of irrigation. If irrigation were employed, and the moisture thereby carefully controlled, it is probable that the curve of purities would drop still less rapidly. Supplementing irrigation with proper planting would even further extend the milling season and improve the quality of the product.

One of Greatest Problems That of Labor.

One of the greatest problems that the planter has to face is that of labor. Money is advanced to laborers sometimes six months before they are ready to work. It frequently happens that some of the laborers under contract fail to appear. The planter then loses not only his money but his crop as well, for during the milling season in many cases laborers can be obtained only by hiring them from a more fortunate neighbor. Unfortunately this method of procedure is not uncommon.

With a central factory the farmer has only to grow and cut the cane and load it on the cars. This gives him much more time to devote to his fields and loss caused by small mills is reduced to a minimum.

Instead of an extraction of 60 to 70 per cent, a modern central mill will obtain from 94 to 98 per cent of the sucrose of the cane, a saving of nearly 50 per cent. The quantity of lime needed for defecation is calculated and controlled chemically by an expert, so that tempering of the juice never causes difficulty, and the high temperatures found in the native process do not exist in modern manufacturing methods. Two sources of loss are thus eliminated.

The loss through the milling of unripe or overripe cane will be eliminated indirectly by the central and the planters will have more time to look after their crops. They will irrigate their fields, keep the cane in a healthy-growing state, and thus prolong the period of high purity. The officers of the central, trained in this work, will assist the planters in introducing better cultural methods.

More Effective Distribution of Labor.

The central factory will lighten, if not settle, the labor question. The sugar planter needs a certain number of men throughout the

year. It is only during the milling season when extra help is needed for the factory that the scarcity of labor presents itself. A large central mill will ordinarily employ 200 men. It will handle the crop of 50 plantations, each of which now employs from 25 to 30 men for sugar-making purposes. The central, therefore, allows from 1,000 to 1,300 laborers, previously employed in the factories, to work in the field. The planter can keep the same men throughout the year, and by means of selection obtain a body of workmen on whom he can rely. This has already worked out in one of the sugar districts of Negros, where a central factory is milling for the planters.

According to the calculations of the Bureau of Science about 3,000,000 piculs of muscovado sugar are raised in Negros and Panay per annum. Actual test runs show that the central mill will obtain about 3 per cent more of 96-degree sugar from the cane than the native mill obtains of muscovado sugar.

Represents Large Annual Loss in Value.

Assuming that a central mill will get only the same amount of 96-degree from the cane that the native mill gets of muscovado, these 3,000,000 piculs would be worth more than \$16,500,000. Centrifugal sugar is worth about \$5.50 per picul, whereas muscovado sugar averages about \$2.50 per picul, so that this sugar at present is worth only about \$7,500,000. The loss each year is from \$7,500,000 to \$10,000,000, assuming that the cost of manufacture of muscovado and centrifugal is the same. As a matter of fact, centrifugal sugar costs a little less to manufacture.

The margin of profit under present conditions is so small that a flood, a swarm of locusts, or other calamity may cut out all the profit for a number of years. The only remedy is the central mill.

[Reports on the sugar industry of the Philippine Islands were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for January 12 and April 20, 1916.]

RUBBER CULTIVATION IN SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 30.]

Hitherto Siam has not acquired any distinction as a rubber-growing country, and during the last five years the export of this product through the port of Bangkok has been comparatively small. Such shipments are listed by the customs under the head of "Rubber and rubber substitutes," the exports under this classification amounting to 142,304 pounds, valued at \$18,533, for the fiscal year 1912; 229,240 pounds, value \$32,548, for 1913; 207,025 pounds, value \$33,431, for 1914; 125,764 pounds, value \$15,533, for 1915; and 187,980 pounds, value \$11,055, for 1916.

The only rubber plantation of any importance in southern Siam is located at Chantaboon and consists of 25,000 trees, planted about 6 years ago, of which 20,000 trees are now ready for tapping. Considerable quantities of rubber, however, are said to come from northern Siam, the product of rubber-yielding trees of the jungle.

In the Siamese Malay States some attention has been given to rubber cultivation in the districts of Trang and Setul. Reliable information is not obtainable here, but it is said that the output of rubber has been insignificant so far in these Provinces.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE AND GOLD RESERVE.

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Oct. 14.]

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce has published an interesting report on the foreign trade of this country from January to the end of September, 1916. According to the report as quoted by the Japan Chronicle, exports for that period amounted to 764,439,000 yen (\$381,072,842) and imports to 558,404,000 yen (\$278,364,394), aggregating 1,322,843,000 yen (\$659,437,236). Exports exceeded imports by 206,035,000 yen (\$102,708,448). Compared with the corresponding period of last year, these figures show an increase of 269,450,000 yen (\$134,320,825) (54.4 per cent) in exports, and 147,652,000 yen (\$73,604,522) (35.9 per cent) in imports. The foreign trade for the first nine months of the year thus shows a prosperity unprecedented in a decade.

Compared with last year, exports to the Far East and the South Seas increased by a little more than 46 per cent, and imports therefrom by about 20 per cent. An increase of about 40 per cent is shown in exports to Europe and a little more than 30 per cent in imports from Europe. The rate of increase in exports to and imports from the United States is 79 and 73 per cent, respectively.

Factors in Development of Foreign Trade.

Exports to South America increased 130 per cent, and imports therefrom 154 per cent. The trade with Australia increased by 57 per cent in exports and 32 per cent in imports. Exports to South Africa increased by 310 per cent, while an increase of 57 per cent is shown in imports from South Africa.

The principal factors in the enormous development in Japan's foreign trade, according to the Chronicle, have been:

1. Exports of munitions of war.
2. Increased exports to the Far East, South Seas, Australia, South Africa, South America, and other places as substitutes for European goods.
3. Increased activity in the export trade to the United States consequent upon American financial prosperity.
4. Increased imports of industrial materials.
5. Advance in the value of exports and imports on account of the appreciation of commodities due to the war.

New Record in Accumulation of Gold Specie.

The Chronicle states that at the end of September Japan's gold reserve totaled 629,000,000 yen (\$313,556,500). It increased to 650,000,000 yen (\$324,025,000) on October 13, making a new record in Japan's possession of gold specie. Of this figure, 210,000,000 yen (\$104,685,000) was held at home and 440,000,000 yen (\$219,340,000) abroad. There are indications of a still further increase in the accumulation of specie, and the authorities expect that it will go beyond 700,000,000 yen (\$348,950,000) before the end of the year.

Delivery of Steel Bridges for Canton-Hankow Railway.

Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham writes from Hankow, China, under date of October 9, that the shipment of bridges for the Canton-Hankow Railway, Hupei-Hunan section, the contract for which was awarded to the United States Steel Products Co., has arrived at Wuchang for delivery. The contract price was \$475,304.

PROSPERITY SHOWN BY REPORT OF JAPANESE LINE.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama.]

During the six months ended June 30, 1916, owing to the greatly increased service on the San Francisco-Japan route of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, all former records made by that company were easily surpassed. The Japan Times states that for the purpose of coping with the changed situation on the Pacific, the company had either chartered or bought new ships, and "thus the gap left in the San Francisco-Japan trade by the withdrawal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. was nearly filled." The company's South American steamers were also instructed to call at San Francisco and Panama on both their outward and homeward voyages. Accordingly, the receipts on this route were so large that an extraordinary increase in the company's total income was recorded. If the *Chiyo Maru* had not been lost, the Times states, the business result might have been even better.

During the six months the company ordered two steamers from the Uruga Dockyard Co., and three from the Yokohama Dockyard Co. These are all now in the course of construction. The *Siberia* and the *Korea* also were purchased.

Company Makes Retrenchment in Expenditures.

Of the outstanding debt of 4,800,000 yen (\$2,392,800), the amount refunded during the term was 1,500,000 yen (\$747,750). A retrenchment in expenditures was made.

The total receipts of the term amounted to 8,369,411 yen (\$4,172,151), against expenditures of 5,633,242 yen (\$2,808,171), the net profit thus amounting to 2,736,169 yen (\$1,363,980), which, plus 83,061 yen (\$41,406) brought over from the last account, is to be distributed as in the following profit-and-loss account: Total profit, \$1,405,387—loss reserve, \$69,790; ordinary dividends at 12 per cent, \$332,126; bonuses at 3 per cent, \$83,032; dividend-equalization fund, \$348,950; depreciation in fleet, \$498,500; pension reserve, \$34,895; carried forward to next account, \$38,094.

Japanese Vessels Chartered by Foreigners.

According to the latest investigations by the Department of Communications, as reported by the Japan Chronicle, Japanese vessels chartered by foreigners numbered 46 at the end of August, with an aggregate tonnage of 152,863. Compared with the preceding month these figures show an increase of three in number and 6,066 tons in tonnage. The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels on foreign charter at the end of each month in 1916:

Month.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.	Month.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.
January	36	103,437	May	39	131,161
February	42	134,517	June	46	154,307
March	37	117,660	July	43	146,797
April	51	171,160	August	46	152,863

Japanese Parcel Post in Export Trade.

The Sale and Frazar Geppo states that it is a prominent feature of the commerce of Japan that parcel-post transportation is being

largely used for export business. This is an outcome of the shortage of ships and high freights, which have made the shipment of goods difficult and expensive. The destination of a large proportion of the parcels is Vladivostok; England comes next, with India and Egypt following in the order given. The figures for the last year show that 170,000 parcels, valued at \$3,489,500, have been sent to Russia, representing about 10 per cent of all the exports to that country.

YEAR'S RESULTS FROM NOVA SCOTIA FISHERIES.

[Consul Charles M. Freeman, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, Nov. 2.]

During the Canadian fiscal year 1915-16 the fisheries of the Sydney consular district, comprising the island of Cape Breton and the two adjoining counties on the mainland of Nova Scotia, employed more than 11,000 persons directly engaged in fishing on 4,000 vessels and boats, nearly 1,200 of the boats being gasoline motor boats. In addition some 4,000 laborers were employed in salting, packing, etc., making a total of 15,000 engaged in the fisheries of this district.

To encourage this industry the Canadian Government, during the year mentioned, paid a bounty of \$27,265 to the vessels, boats, and fishermen of the district. This was at the rate of \$1 for each registered ton of the deep-sea fishing vessels, and \$5.90 to each member of the crews, while the so-called shore fishermen received \$1 for each boat engaged and \$3.45 for each fisherman employed.

Government's East Refrigerator-Car Service.

To share in the bounty payments, a person must have been engaged in the fisheries for at least three months and have caught not less than 2,500 pounds of fish. No bounty is paid to fishermen engaged in catching shellfish, salmon, fish taken in or at the mouths of rivers, or fish caught in trap nets, pound nets, or weirs. To assist the industry in this particular district the Government on its railroad has a fast refrigerator-car service one day each week from Mulgrave, on the Strait of Canso, to Montreal, and on less than carload lots of fresh fish the Government makes payment of one-third of the express charges from the Atlantic coast to points in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Besides these direct aids to the fisheries of the district, eight hatcheries are maintained.

The fisheries had a very successful season in 1915-16, not only in the quantity of fish obtained but also in the good prices received. The quantities and values of the fish caught and marketed in the past two years were: Season of 1914-15, 65,371,800 pounds; value landed, \$1,218,841; value marketed, \$1,751,129; season of 1915-16, 67,195,400 pounds; value landed, \$1,252,586; value marketed, \$2,098,420.

The quantities of the chief kinds of fish caught and their values landed in the green state for the year 1915-16 were:

Kinds of fish.	Pounds.	Value.	Kinds of fish.	Pounds.	Value.
Salmon.....	616,000	\$56,448	Pollock.....	1,712,100	\$13,370
Lobsters.....	6,561,600	239,779	Herring.....	9,382,000	86,973
Codfish.....	20,306,300	303,758	Mackerel.....	3,297,000	127,388
Haddock.....	27,098,800	284,528	Halibut.....	880,000	40,771
Hake.....	1,588,500	12,507	Swordfish.....	1,030,600	39,533

FEATURES OF NEW BRUNSWICK'S FISHERIES.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 2.]

New Brunswick has three fisheries districts, each under the jurisdiction of an inspector. District No. 1 comprises Charlotte and St. John Counties; district No. 2, Albert, Westmoreland, Kent, Northumberland, Gloucester, and Restigouche Counties; district No. 3, Kings, Queens, Sunbury, York, Carleton, Victoria, and Madawaska Counties. Of the six counties of district No. 2, approximately four are in the Moncton consular district. This area, with its long shore line on the Northumberland Strait, is one of Canada's most active fishing centers.

Extent of Industry and Amount Invested.

The fishermen here operate 1 steam vessel of 16 tons, 320 sailing and gasoline vessels, 5,340 sailboats, 740 power boats, and 7 carrying smacks. They have the use of 190 freezers and ice houses, 514 smoke and fish houses, and 63 fishing piers and wharves. Besides these, 151 lobster canneries and 1 clam cannery are maintained. The investment value of this equipment, including the gear actually used by the fishermen, is estimated at \$1,712,597. An estimate of the personnel engaged places the total at 18,123, made up of 12,556 men employed on the fleet and 5,567 persons working in the canneries, freezers, and fish houses ashore.

The report of the inspector for district No. 2 for the fiscal year 1915-16 (to Mar. 31) shows that the value of the fish taken was \$2,589,152, compared with \$2,849,820 for the corresponding period of 1914-15, a decrease of \$260,668. In giving details of the catch the inspector states:

There was an increase in the salmon catch of 2,507 hundredweight, making an increase in value, as compared with last year, of \$37,605. Weather conditions on the Miramichi were against this fishery at the beginning of the season, and while the catch in the aggregate exceeded that of last year, at the mouth of the Miramichi River and Bay it fell off, chiefly because the hair seals destroyed large quantities of fish, especially around Portage and Fox Islands, where important fishing grounds have become worthless. Had conditions been favorable in the Miramichi district, there would have been a very much larger catch, showing that the hatcheries, together with better protection, are more than keeping up the supply. The fall run on the Miramichi was equal to if not larger than that of former years.

Lobster Fishery Shows Vast Improvement.

The lobster fishery shows a vast improvement, and, with the regulations strictly enforced, one of our greatest fishing industries will be preserved. There were 135 factories in operation in 1915, compared with 155 in 1914. An increased catch of 3,200 hundredweight represented an increased value of \$27,835, notwithstanding the fact that a severe storm at the height of the fishing season destroyed the fishing gear, which could not be replaced, and that the season was shortened by five days.

The herring returns show a decrease in the catch of 33,366 hundredweight, and a decrease in value of \$94,469. This to some extent is accounted for by the small quantity of salt available and its increased value. As the smoking industry is increasing there is every reason to hope that these fish which have been used so extensively for fertilizing purposes will be either salted or smoked, and thus become a food fish.

The mackerel catch has decreased 10,109 hundredweight. This can be explained only by reference to the weather conditions. The fish did not come into the bays as they did last year. Market conditions also were poor.

There is a falling off in the smelt fishery, compared with 1915, of 12,205 hundredweight, representing a decreased value of \$122,050. This is one of the most important fisheries carried on during the winter, giving employment to a large

number of persons at a season when no other employment is available. The weather conditions largely explain the shortage on the Miramichi River and tributaries. There was no ice to enable the fishermen to set their nets until January, and it is claimed that the fish had gone out to sea before that time.

Cod Fisheries Suffer for Lack of Salt.

Cod fisheries showed an increase of 597 hundredweight. These fish were never known to be so plentiful as they were in June, but as the fishermen were unable to procure salt they did not prosecute these fisheries as they would otherwise have done.

Oysters showed a decrease of 2,632 barrels in comparison with last year.

Clams and quahaugs fell short of last year's catch by 5,878 barrels. The decrease in clams amounted to 681 barrels, and that in quahaugs to 5,197 barrels. This large decrease in quahaugs is explained by the fact that the market value was so low that it did not pay to fish for them.

The capital invested in the fishing industry in the Province of New Brunswick is estimated at \$3,958,714, the number of men employed on the fleets and inland waters at 16,702, and the number of employees in canneries, freezers, and fish houses at 6,671. These figures show that district No. 2, dealt with in this report, is easily the chief fishing district of the Province.

[A report on American interest in New Brunswick fisheries was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 15, 1916.]

PATENT OBTAINED FOR CHINESE TYPEWRITER.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking.]

The Chinese who invented a typewriter for his native language has obtained a patent from the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, to run for five years.

The machine was described in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 3, 1916. The inventor is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was one of the original Chinese indemnity students to be educated in the United States, was formerly aeronautical engineer for an American company, and is now mechanical engineer for the Commercial Press (Ltd.) of Shanghai.

This typewriter uses 4,000 Chinese characters. The ordinary Chinese printing office uses about 6,000 characters, while a complete Chinese dictionary may contain as many as 50,000. For all practical purposes, however, the 6,000 characters commonly used in a printing office in this country are found to be quite sufficient.

JAPANESE COTTON MILLS IN CHINA.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Sept. 15.]

The Japanese press reports various projects on the part of cotton spinners in that country to extend their manufacturing enterprises to China. The Chinese cotton-manufacturing industry recently has experienced a period of marked prosperity, and it was aided much last year by the movement among the Chinese toward the use of home-manufactured products.

One important Japanese spinning company already has a site at Shanghai; another has sent representatives to China to select one; a third has authorized an extensive increase of capital, part of which will be used in building a new Shanghai factory, and a fourth has a similar project on foot.

There is no marked tendency at present for wages in China to rise. It seems as if this industry had a considerable future before it.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.	Bordeaux, France....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Dow, Edward A.	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.	Dundee, Scotland....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkersford, Amherst County, Va.
Morgan, Henry H.	Hamburg, Germany..	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.	Montevideo, Uruguay..	Dec. 1	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

FLOATING DRY DOCKS FOR VALPARAISO HARBOR.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Oct. 25.]

The afternoon edition of El Mercurio for October 24 reports that a 30-year concession has been granted to Sr. Alfredo Ballvian (Grimwood), Independencia 371, Valparaiso, for the operation of two floating dry docks in the harbor of Valparaiso. It is stated that the dry docks must be capable of handling ships up to 12,000 tons.

No further information on the subject is available at the present writing.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3842.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Office, of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 8, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel, planished iron, steel castings, copper, brass, bronze, copper tubing, tin, lead pipe, steel cable, wire, electric wire, solder, steel pins, pipe fittings, pipe straps, stovepipe, chain, track spikes, boat spikes, nails, bolts, nuts, screws, anchors, chain shackles, vises, wrenches, reamers, dies, files, cup hooks, crucibles, riddles, grindstone, scales, tool handles, saws, water gauges, radio sets, reflectors, electric fittings, asbestos lumber, fiber tubing, rubber rods, insulating cloth, tapes, butcher's blocks, waiter's aprons, paper clips, labels, silica grit, silica sand, silica wash, fire clay, ferrosilicon, lime, carbide, acetone, graphite, sal ammoniac, glue, paraffin wax, gold leaf, litharge, liquid filler, lard oil, Japan drier, wood alcohol, lampblack, red lead, varnish, paints, and white oak. (Circular No. 1102.)

Subsistence supplies, No. 3843.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, United States Army, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until December 1, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before December 12, 1916, 49,000 pounds of flour for Fort Leavenworth, Kans.; 63,700 pounds of flour for United States Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kans.; and 40,180 pounds of flour for Fort Sill, Okla. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Cast-iron gears, No. 3844.—Sealed proposals will be received by the United States Reclamation Service, Interior Department, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1916, for furnishing nine pairs of cast-iron skew bevel gears for gate stands for Rio Grande Project, N. Mex.-Tex. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3845.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 2, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, dredge tumbler, engine-truck springs, brake-shaft brackets, lamp-posts, pig lead, electric cable, wire, conduit and fittings, electric fittings, marine hardware and equipment, locks, bolts, hinges, hasps, screws, cotters, grommets, tacks, nuts, taper pins, drawer pulls, bed casters, files, dies, tackle blocks, chain blocks, shelf brackets, buckets, brooms, ice tongs, grindstones, tool handles, ladders, lanterns, lantern globes, soldering pots, tallow pots, oilers, rules, steel tapes, rat traps, welding spectacles, boring machine, milling machine, lathe, range canopies, potato-peeling machine, refrigerator, mirrors, chairs, lavatories, water-closets, ranges, tanks, pantasote, bunting, twine, crayons, and spruce and pine lumber. (Circular 1100.)

Grocery supplies, No. 3846.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, U. S. A., 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 28, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before December 5, 1916, dried codfish, pickled mackerel, white corn meal, yellow corn meal, baking powder, beans, canned baked beans, rice, hominy, canned tomatoes, prunes, evaporated apples and peaches, coffee, tea, granulated sugar, vinegar, pickles, salt, pepper, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, nutmeg, lard and lard substitute, butter, oleomargarine, sirup, flavoring extracts, canned apples, apricots, asparagus, bacon, sliced beef, borax, candy, cheese, crackers, flour, gelatin, ham, jelly, etc.

Asphalt floor, No. 3847.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 11, 1916, for an asphalt floor in building No. 28, boiler shop, at the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Plan and specifications can be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the commandant of the navy yard, New York, N. Y.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Addressing machines	23108	Machinery, tanning	23109
Automobile supplies, etc	23110	Machinery and tools	23115
Books, scientific	23117	Office supplies	23108
Buchac	23114	Packing house construction	23113
Clothing	23117	Paints and colors	23110, 23116
Crockery and tableware	23110	Shoes	23117
Duplicating machines	23108	Stationery and supplies	23108
Hardware	23110	Talking machine parts	23112
Hosiery	23110, 23117	Tanning materials	23109
Leather	23109	Underwear, knit	23117
Machinery, meat packing	23113		

- 23108.†—A business man in France wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of stationery and office supplies of all kinds, including carbon paper, typewriter ribbons, pencil sharpeners, etc.; also addressing and duplicating machines, etc. Correspondence in English.
- 23109.†—A commission merchant and manufacturers' representative in the Far East is in the market for leather, tanning materials, and machinery and equipment for a newly constructed tanning factory. Correspondence in English. Samples where practicable are desired.
- 23110.†—An importer and commission merchant in the West Indies desires to represent American manufacturers of paint, hardware, automobile supplies and accessories, tableware, crockery, etc.
- 23111.*—A man in Portugal desires to represent an American manufacturer of hosiery. Correspondence in Spanish or French. Reference.
- 23112.†—A manufacturers' agent in Canada asks the Bureau to place him in touch with manufacturers of motors and other accessories entering into the manufacture of cheap talking machines.
- 23113.†—The consular representative of a Latin American country in the United States desires to receive propositions for the construction of a meat-packing plant, including all requisite machinery and equipment. Alternative bids are desired on the smallest unit that could be operated at a profit, and for a unit considered by the contractor to be the most profitable.
- 23114.*—A firm of pharmacists and chemists in the United Kingdom desires to be placed in communication with American dealers in a position to supply "buchac," a shrub said to grow in California and which is planted in selected places to aid in the destruction of flies and insects.
- 23115.†—An export firm on the Pacific coast informs the Bureau that it has inquiries from foreign buyers for large presses, dies, and tools for stamping and drawing steel kitchen utensils, such as plates, cups, bowls, and similar articles which are afterwards enameled.
- 23116.*—The manager of a manufacturing plant in Spain is in the market for colors for decorating and printing on sheet tin. Correspondence in English. References.
- 23117.†—An export house on the Pacific coast informs the Bureau that it has inquiries from Russia for clothing, underwear, hosiery, and shoes for women and children. Reference.
- 23118.†—A man in Venezuela desires to purchase Spanish editions of scientific works on jurisprudence, medicine, law, legislation, etc. Catalogues are desired.

"Trade Opportunities" Bring Norwegian Orders.

Consul Maurice P. Dunlap, of Stavanger, reports that through the publication of "Trade Opportunities" in COMMERCE REPORTS \$2,500 worth of American fish nets and \$500 worth of American shoes (with further orders pending) were sold to Norwegian firms in the quarter ended September 30, 1916.

COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
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No. 280 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, November 28 1916

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SPAIN'S SUPPLY OF COPPER SULPHATE.

[Cablegram from the American Embassy, Madrid, Spain, Nov. 25.]

Minister of Treasury states national production of copper sulphate sufficient for normal necessities next season, and unnecessary to acquire any abroad.

BRITISH PROHIBITION ON GOLD AND SILVER ARTICLES.

[Cablegram from Commercial Attaché, London, received Nov. 27.]

All articles manufactured solely or partly of gold or silver and all jewelry containing gold, silver, or platinum prohibited importation United Kingdom. Jewelry manufactured solely base metals admitted. [This is in the nature of an interpretation of the proclamation prohibiting the importation of jewelry, etc., notice concerning which was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 20, 1916.]

ADDITIONS TO EMBARGO LIST OF THE NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from American vice consul, Rotterdam, Nov. 24.]

The following articles have been placed under embargo: Chinese wood oil; wooden shoes; oyster shells; all iron and steel and their alloys in every form except when used as packing material; aloxite, alundum, emery, amaryl, carborundum, and similar grinding materials; matting used as packing material; chestnuts, acorns, and beechnuts; shoe pegs; various vegetable seeds; vegetable glue made from potato flour and dextrin; all spices; perfumery of every description; cheese marked as destined for inland consumption.

HIGH RECORD MADE IN TESTS OF RADIUM.

The largest quantity of radium ever received for test in one month by the United States Bureau of Standards was that for the month of October, 1916. The total value for the month was \$77,000. The aggregate value of the radium tested at the bureau up to the present time is more than \$1,000,000.

MINERALS IN GERMAN WEST AFRICAN COLONIES.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, French West Africa, Oct. 28.]

One of the recent reports of the Comité Central des Houillères de France contains an interesting reference to the mineral resources of the German colonies in West Africa. The following extracts were taken therefrom:

Togoland.—The presence of iron ore, gold, chromite, bauxite, and limestone is reported.

The iron ore is of the hematite variety, containing 89.51 per cent iron oxide, 9.47 per cent infusorial earth, 0.24 per cent alumina, 0.16 per cent manganese oxide, and 0.3 per cent phosphorous acid. These are mainly found in the Sokode-Basari district. The extent of the deposits probably represents 20,000,000 English tons.

Natural gold is found in the alluvious sediments of the River Moru, auriferous quartz in the vicinity of Atakpame and Sokode, and conglomerates at Kpando.

Chromites, containing a little nickel, are to be found in the southwest of Atakpame, bauxites to the southwest of Misahohe, and there exists to the east of Agbandi quartz veins containing pockets of argentiferous lead.

Deposits in the Kamerun.

The Kamerun.—No important mineral discoveries have yet been made in the Kamerun, but the result of researches effected up to now is encouraging and justifies a more systematic exploration.

There is an abundance of iron ore, especially in the neighborhood of Ball and Bamenda. The following is an analysis: Metallic iron, 42.29 per cent; manganese, 0.35 per cent; phosphorus, 0.17 per cent; and infusorial earth, 12.26 per cent. There are also rich minerals of the magnetic type.

Bauxite is fairly extensive, as also is clay; but tin, gold, or wolfram have not been found.

Asphalt is to be found at Onidenge and Mamfe; a little coal with 48.3 per cent of cinder at Mamfe; and salt banks in the district of Ossinge containing from 5 per cent to 8 per cent of common salt.

ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

Among the numerous conferences that have been held by representatives of manufacturing interests with the United States Bureau of Standards in the past few weeks were several in which the problems considered were of general interest.

The chemists of two large companies discussed with the bureau certain features of the recovery of potash in the burning of Portland cement.

An expert of the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis. conferred with reference to work on paper and writing materials.

A representative of a lumber concern interested in the possibility of cutting gumwood into chips at the sawmill and selling the baled chips called at the bureau.

Two technical men from Chicago conferred regarding pycnometers and calorimetric standards.

A visitor from a Japanese university was interested in paper and textile fibers.

Another visitor was acting for a company which makes scientific instruments and drafting supplies. He was especially interested in the manufacture and testing of blue-print drawing papers.

Assistance is being given to a company which contemplates the manufacture of porcelain buttons.

SMALL-ARM AMMUNITION NEEDED IN CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Oct. 27.]

The Canary Islands are short of small-arm ammunition stocks, and as these supplies have hitherto come from England, France, Italy, and Germany, in the order named as regards quantities, American producers should be in a position to bid for this market successfully.

Some \$20,000 per annum of this class of merchandise is required by these islands, as hunting is a popular pastime for small game, such as quail, pheasant, partridge, and rabbit is plentiful. Public supplies, such as army and police ammunition, are under national supervision and imported direct from Spain.

Shotgun and revolver ammunition, however, offer an exceptional opportunity to American firms, and present prices are approximately double as compared with quotations for July, 1914.

There are no clubs especially interested in the use of firearms, and the only Government regulation as regards the sale of small-arm ammunition is the requirement of a special license. Under present conditions buyers in this market would probably accept f. o. b. terms in an American port for this class of merchandise, although undoubtedly c. i. f. terms would lead to wider buying.

In the present state of this market it would not seem desirable that American firms should seek any special agent; but it is advisable to send catalogues with terms and prices stated in pesetas if possible, and if not, in terms of American gold. The Spanish language should be employed.

[A list of small-arm ammunition dealers in the Canary Islands can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82058.]

NEW STEEL MILL IN CHILE.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Oct. 16.]

There has recently been developed in Santiago a steel industry on a small scale, using as raw material the old iron formerly exported to Europe. The high price of steel after the outbreak of the European war led to the domestic manufacture of this article through the efforts of an engineer, Mateo Vucetich, and a capitalist, Bernardo Granello. Great difficulty was experienced at first in finding skilled workmen, until Spaniards were secured from Bilbao, where the steel industry is developed. Chileans were taken on as apprentices, and the force now employed numbers about 100, not including those who collect the old iron. A special foundry had to be built for making the needed machinery, which was turned out after European models, as was also the refining furnace. Chilean coal is being used, which is another item of economy.

The products of the mill include bars, plates, angles, tees, construction steel for concrete buildings, carriage parts, bolts, nuts, nails, horseshoes, tires, etc. The Chilean steel sells for 20 per cent less than the imported steel. A fair quality has been obtained, and the operating difficulties encountered at first are now being overcome. The demand for steel in Chile is large and increasing, which assures an immediate market for all that can be produced at the Santiago mill.

SOUTH AMERICA'S CHINAWARE SUPPLY LIMITED.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Chile, Oct. 19.]

A salesman traveling for American glass manufacturers states that he has received many inquiries from his customers regarding chinaware. He has been asked why he did not sell it. In a letter telling of his experience he states that there should be a demand for chinaware, as stocks offered for sale are small, and patterns to choose from are limited in number, but it is thought that the principal difficulty in the way of introducing American chinaware would be the higher scale of prices asked by American manufacturers and dealers.

In normal times most of the chinaware of the cheaper kinds came from Great Britain, with Germany second on the list of countries supplying Chile. The European ware is now more difficult to obtain.

Kitchen Ware Sold Practically All Imported.

A factory was started recently in another part of Chile for the manufacture of enameled ware, but so far the number of different articles made has been limited, and the kitchen ware now sold by the retail trade is practically all imported. A few houses here at present are selling American enameled ware. Chinaware as well as enameled ware is handled principally by hardware houses, but practically all stores retailing groceries have some trade in these articles. Nickel-plated ware is nearly all handled by hardware houses.

On account of the higher manufacturing costs in the United States at this time, as well as increased freights, the prices of American articles seem very high in comparison with prices paid for European articles before the war, and the difference is emphasized by the fact that most of the articles now being sold are of European origin.

This condition may be unavoidable, and the higher prices charged by American firms may be understood by those who carefully study the situation, but it is suggested that whenever cheaper raw materials, cheaper labor, and other items entering into manufacturing costs again prevail it would be advisable to concede lower prices on manufactured articles to foreign importers, rather than to endeavor to maintain maximum prices for as long a period as possible. It will be only through such liberal action that trade obtained on account of the scarcity of European goods can be retained.

Letter From Traveling Salesman.

The traveling salesman mentioned as having represented this branch of trade in South America said in the course of his letter on the subject:

"There is a great demand all over South America for chinaware, enameled ware, and nickel-plated ware. I have visited Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile, from Punta Arenas to Antofagasta. Everywhere I have been asked the same question by most of my customers: 'Where can we buy chinaware in the United States, or enameled ware or nickel-plated ware?' In case some American manufacturer in that line is likely to be interested, I shall be very much pleased to furnish him with the names and addresses of possible purchasers."

[The address in the United States of the salesman who is prepared to furnish the names of dealers in South America may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81908.]

AMERICAN LOAN TO CITY OF DUBLIN.

[Vice Consul Charles C. Broy, Dublin, Ireland, Nov. 6.]

One of the important municipal problems of Dublin for a number of years has been that of providing better living quarters for the working population of the city. Some progress along this line has already been made, but it is hoped that many more dwellings will be erected in the near future. It is claimed that the health of those living in the dwellings thus far provided is far better than that of those yet remaining in the old buildings. This is especially true in the case of tuberculosis.

The Dublin press of November 4 announced that favorable action has been taken on the report of the housing committee of the Dublin Municipal Council, which recommended the acceptance of a loan of £410,000 (about \$2,000,000) from a Boston banking firm for the purpose of constructing additional dwellings. The interest to be paid amounts to £5 11s. 3d. per cent, or slightly more than 5½ per cent.

Before this loan can be consummated the question of the acceptance must be referred to the Local Government Board, and the matter will probably not be definitely decided for several weeks. It is believed, however, that it will be accepted, as the terms seem favorable for present conditions, and in that event there would seem to be a good opportunity for the sale of American building materials. It is therefore suggested that interested firms send literature to Dublin building contractors [whose names and addresses may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 81824].

DIAMOND-CUTTING INDUSTRY IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Samuel M. Taylor, Birmingham, Nov. 6.]

One effect of the war, apparently, has been to establish the diamond-cutting industry on a permanent footing in Birmingham. Attempts made from time to time to start the industry here were, in the main, failures because of a lack of the necessary skilled labor, but now the war has driven to this country as refugees practically all the Belgian diamond workers.

Birmingham is probably the leading center of the jewelry industry in Great Britain. Diamond cutting is a very important essential of the industry, and the advent of the Belgian workers was at once seized on by the jewelry manufacturers to establish the business here. Six months ago a start was made with about 50 skilled Belgian workers. It was a success from the beginning. The staff and plant were soon increased, and there are now over 80 employed. In the meantime British boys are being trained, and it has been demonstrated that they are quite capable of acquiring the necessary skill. It is said that in London half a dozen diamond-cutting factories have been made possible by the presence of refugee Belgian skilled workers.

Experienced jewelry men believe the industry is here to stay, and that while many of the Belgian craftsmen after the war may return to their native land they will at least have remained long enough to establish the business permanently in England.

JAPANESE EXPORTS OF BEER TO INDIA.

[Extract from *Japan Chronicle*, forwarded by Vice Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Oct. 15.]

A Japanese official sent to Bombay to inspect the commercial situation made a report to the Tokyo Government in which he said that among Japanese products imported by India beer was one which had increased remarkably since the outbreak of war and had the brightest prospects.

"The largest Japanese exporter of beer to India," he said, "is the Dai Nippon Beer Co., followed by the Kabuto and Sakura Beer Cos. It is satisfactory to note that they station their agents in India and are making vigorous efforts to extend their markets."

The imports of beer into Bombay from April, 1915, to March, 1916, totaled 228,000 gallons, Japanese imports amounting to 62,000 gallons, or about 27 per cent of the total. In 1912-13 the total received from Japan was not more than 3 gallons; 22 gallons were shipped in 1913-14, and 8,100 gallons in 1914-15.

"It will be seen," stated the report mentioned, "what a great difference the war has made in Japan's beer trade. It is expected that in the current year the figure will double that for the preceding year."

COTTON SHIPMENTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending November 25, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	16,785	Virginia.....	
Massachusetts.....	523	Galveston.....	64,930
Maryland.....	50	New Orleans.....	8,367
New York.....	3,016	San Francisco.....	7,825
North Carolina.....		Washington.....	15,999
Philadelphia.....		Total.....	117,495
South Carolina.....			

The exports of 117,495 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 2,372,153 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 68,639 bales for the week and 1,772,862 bales in the cotton year.

FRANCE IMPORTS SUGAR FROM MAURITIUS.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Oct. 27.]

The Mauritius correspondent of the *Union Nationale pour l'Exportation des Produits Français* has informed this organization that the British Government has, as usual, purchased the entire sugar crop of the island, but that this year the crop has been purchased on behalf of the French Government. The amount involved is between 150,000 and 180,000 tons. The first shipments were made at the end of September.

COMMERCIAL ITEMS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 28.]

Increased Bank Deposits.

The total deposits in the banks of New Zealand at the end of September, 1916, amounted to \$183,751,930, against \$154,473,913 at the same period in 1915, being a net gain of \$29,278,017 for the year, divided as follows: \$12,515,986 in Government deposits; \$10,097,053 in free deposits, and \$6,664,978 in fixed deposits. The excess of deposits over loans amounted to \$38,549,177, against \$2,623,472 at the end of September, 1914. The coin and bullion in the vaults of the banks of the Dominion amounted to \$36,490,234, against \$28,340,428 at the same period in 1914. The note circulation amounted to \$21,071,716, against \$9,794,167 at the end of September, 1914.

Increased Wealth of New Zealand.

The balance of trade for the calendar year 1915 amounted to \$52,422,434, against \$5,629,231 for the calendar year 1913, while the balance of trade for the first eight months of 1916 amounted to \$49,527,563 against \$43,940,602 for the first eight months of 1915. The Government receipts showed a balance on September 30, 1916, of \$10,992,455 against \$1,619,922 at the same time in 1915; with a total public debt of \$515,641,848. The total valuation of land and improvements of the country is placed at \$1,805,844,678, with the value of personal property at \$926,552,322, making the per capita wealth at about \$2,277.

Increased Foreign Business at Auckland.

The foreign trade of the port of Auckland shows marked increases and indicates the future importance of this part of the country. The exports for the year ended August 31, 1916, amounted to \$30,893,189, compared with \$18,274,515 for the same period in 1915, being an increase of 68 per cent, while the increase for the whole of New Zealand was only about 27 per cent; and the outlook for 1917 is even better, since more attention has been given to the production of butter and cheese and the raising of fat stock than ever before.

Exports for Third Quarter of 1916.

Exports from New Zealand for the quarter ended September 30, 1916, amounted to \$34,393,522 as compared with \$31,361,843 for the same period in 1915. This increase is especially important since it included no specie export, while the September quarter of 1915 included specie to the value of \$1,646,993. Of the exports, the United Kingdom took supplies to the value of \$28,381,399 and the United States to the value of \$1,216,625.

Customs Receipts and Export of Gold From Auckland.

A late report by the customs authorities at the port of Auckland shows that the customs receipts of the port for the first eight months of 1916 were \$3,080,932, against \$2,861,809 for the same period in 1915, and the beer duties \$132,520, against \$83,757, respectively. The export of gold for the same period in 1916 amounted to \$3,800,145, against \$1,061,559 in 1915.

HARBOR MOORINGS AT HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 6.]

While from its beginning Hongkong has always been a free port, in that no duty has been levied upon incoming or outgoing merchandise, and port and other charges have always been kept at a minimum, the actual situation of most ships in its harbor has been peculiar. Until comparatively recent years nothing was done in the way of providing modern wharf facilities, and the accommodations now offered are for only six large vessels, and the piers are owned by a private corporation. Nor has any extensive work been undertaken in the way of dredging and improving the harbor. Ships have anchored in the stream, and, where regularity of service or extent of interests justified it, buoys were placed and ships have usually made fast to them. These buoys were placed by arrangement with the Government by the shipping companies.

The companies operating coasting services were the first to find it to their advantage to place buoys, and the points in the harbor nearest the principal landings were, naturally, the locations selected by these concerns. The result has been that as the over-sea trade of the port developed and larger vessels came into the trade, the new ships have been compelled to moor at buoys placed at constantly increasing distances from the landing places, whereas the more important places in the port—that is, the buoys most convenient to shore—have been occupied by small coasting or tramp steamers. Passengers arriving or departing by the large mail ships have been compelled to cross the harbor from and to the outer buoys, while the more convenient buoys were occupied by ships carrying few or no passengers.

Government Now Owns Moorings.

To avoid such an abuse and to better control the harbor generally the Hongkong authorities two years ago passed an ordinance by which the Government bought all these buoys in the harbor, classified them into three grades, and charged for the first-grade or more convenient buoys a fee that represented a return on the convenience afforded large and important mail ships by such moorings, and scaled the charges down to half for those most distant from the landings and most suitable for the use of the small, coasting rice, coal, and tramp steamships generally. The purchase or condemnation of the privately owned moorings was not actually undertaken until the second half of the year 1915, when the financial condition of the colony justified the expenditure.

The work of purchase and relaying the buoys was completed during the past month, and at the meeting of the Legislative Council on October 5 the governor of the colony announced that the sum of \$126,215 gold had been expended in the purchase of 45 moorings, as compared with an estimated cost of \$125,000 gold for 40 moorings anticipated in the original plans of the government. While the plan of the government has been opposed by the companies owning the favored locations in the harbor, the demand of other shipping has been insistent and the advantage to the government and to the public at large has been self-evident. By the new arrangement all vessels of whatever ownership or nationality coming into the harbor can have the accommodations for which they are will-

ing to pay, namely, \$4 gold a day for class A moorings, \$3 gold a day for class B, and \$2 gold for class C moorings. The resultant revenue not only supports the moorings but also nets a small balance to the government; and it is doubtful if, in the long run, the moorings for their vessels now cost even those companies with favored locations under the old régime as much as they formerly cost them. The new scheme works especially to the advantage of all the trans-Pacific mail ships.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK OPENS SINGAPORE BRANCH.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul Singapore, Straits Settlements, Oct. 2.]

The Yokohama Specie Bank (Ltd.), head office at Yokohama, with a subscribed capital of 48,000,000 yen (\$24,000,000), a paid-up capital of 30,000,000 yen (\$15,000,000), and a reserve fund of 20,800,000 yen (\$10,400,000), has recently opened a branch in Singapore at 31-A Kling Street. Other branches and agencies are located at Tokyo, Nagasaki, New York, Bombay, Sydney, Hongkong, Ryojun (Port Arthur), Tiebling, Fengtien (Mukden), Chi-Nan-Fu, Osaka, London, San Francisco, Calcutta, Hankow, Shanghai, Tientsin, Changchun, Antung Hsien, Harbin, Kobe, Lyon, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Peking, Dairen (Dalny), Newchwang, Liaoyang, and Tsingtau, and with London Bankers, Paris Bank (Ltd.), Union of London and Smiths Bank (Ltd.), and London Joint Stock Bank (Ltd.).

The new branch advertises that it transacts all kinds of banking business, that it issues drafts, purchases or remits bills for collection, and grants traveler's circular letters of credit negotiable in all towns of importance throughout the world.

EXPORTS OF IVORY COAST PRODUCTS.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, French West Africa, Oct. 27.]

According to statistics recently published in the *Journal Officiel de la Cote d'Ivoire* the exports of palm kernels from the Ivory Coast, French West Africa, during the first six months of 1916 amounted to 7,718,773 pounds, as against 6,023,232 pounds during the corresponding period of 1915. The export of palm oil amounted to 7,663,678 pounds, as against 6,122,253 pounds in 1915. There were 6,570,780 pounds of timber exported, as against 15,880,769 pounds in 1915; 504,616 pounds of rubber, against 146,236 pounds in 1915; and 111,521 pounds of cocoa, against 113,433 pounds. The decrease in the exports of timber is not surprising when the present difficulties of transport are taken into consideration. These conditions did not exist to such a great extent last year.

EXTRA TRAIN FOR TRANSANDINE SERVICE.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Chile, Oct. 24.]

Announcement is made that, beginning November 1, there will be two trains a week by the Juncal Transandine between Los Andes, Chile, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. One of these will be a through train; the other will necessitate a change of cars and a wait of some hours in Mendoza. Up to the present time there has been only one train a week.

INTRODUCING AMERICAN BEER ON CHINESE MARKET.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai.]

Several years ago, before domestic brews were introduced, there was a good demand for American beers on the Shanghai market, Pabst, Schlitz, and Rainier being the favorites. At that time they were sold for \$20 to \$24 Mexican per case or cask containing 10 dozen pints, which at the present rates of exchange would roughly be \$10 to \$12 gold. These beers must now face the competition of very good beers brewed in Shanghai and Tsingtau, as well as those imported from Japan, and which are sold in this market to the consumer at \$4.25 to \$6 gold, delivered, and all breakage made good. These prices refer to cases containing 6 dozen pints or 4 dozen quarts.

Before the war beer imported from Germany had a very large sale on this market and was sold at prices ranging from \$6 to \$12 gold. At the present time British Pilsener beer and ale sell for \$8 to \$12 gold per case of 6 dozen pints.

The import tariff on beer is about \$0.075 gold per 2 dozen pints or 1 dozen quarts, and is the same no matter what packing is used.

Preferred Packing—Labels—Terms.

The preferred packing would seem to be cases, strongly made, wired, and sealed (to prevent pilfering), containing 6 dozen pints or 4 dozen quarts, although casks containing 10 dozen pints is the recognized way of packing American beer for this market. It is customary to wrap each bottle in corrugated paper, the spaces between bottles being filled in with fine straw. However, in all packing the point to bear in mind is that the packing should be as secure as possible without thereby increasing the cost too much, as the sale of almost all goods in the China market hangs more upon considerations of price than of quality.

With reference to labels, any label that is suitable for the American trade would be suitable for this market. It should include, of course, the name of the local firm intrusted with the distribution of the goods.

As regards color of beverage, there seems to be little or no demand for dark beers upon this market.

Merchants here receive 60 to 90 days' clear credit from date of arrival of cargo in Shanghai, and some British firms have been granted as much as four months, though there is a steady tendency toward shorter terms. The first or trial shipment should really be on consignment, subsequent shipments to be based on the demand created.

Agency Arrangements—Publicity Work.

It is customary to give an agency for the goods to some foreign wine and spirit dealer who has connections in the various outports. There is no American liquor merchant in Shanghai. The question of commission is one that should be settled between agent and principal according to the merits of the case. In every instance a suitable allowance should be given the agent for publicity purposes. The cost to the agent should be figured on the lowest possible basis, in order to compete with the beers now on the market. In calculating the cost price of export articles care should be taken to figure the bare cost of manufacturing, and not ask the agent here to pay also

for the cost of publicity and delivery in the home market, which in no way further the sale of goods in this field.

In introducing a new beer, as well as in maintaining sales thereafter, it is always advisable, and to a certain extent necessary, to use one or several publicity methods. Newspaper advertising, first in Shanghai, to be followed later by insertions in leading Tientsin and Hankow papers, is a minimum requirement. Further publicity can be gained at reasonable cost by the free distribution of advertising novelties, handbills, and calendars, and also by the display of posters on walls and signboards, in street cars, and on slides in motion-picture houses. Needless to say, any and all advertising should be done under the advice and supervision of the local agent, who alone is capable of using correct methods. A duty of 5.25 per cent ad valorem is assessed on all imported advertising matter, though it is possible to send small lots, say under \$5 in value, by mail, in which case it would probably be passed duty free.

Three General Introductory Methods.

There might be said to be three general methods of introducing American beers into China. It has been customary, as already stated, to place an agency with experienced wine and spirit merchants in the treaty ports. The advantage of distributing goods through these merchants is that they specialize on a particular line. The disadvantage lies in the fact that there is no American concern of this kind and the natural tendency, of course, is for these dealers to push the goods of their respective countries.

On the other hand, there are in Shanghai and other ports a number of American firms or "hongs" doing a general import and export business on a very large scale and handling goods requiring special management in special departments under the supervision of experts. These American "hongs" have established connections all over China and are able to place at the disposal of the manufacturer in the United States an efficient sales organization, capable of launching on this market any new product if the right backing is received from the manufacturer.

Working through these American "hongs," two methods might be followed with equal advantage: (1) Placing the agency with the firm which has an expert already in its service, or (2) placing the agency with a firm which will provide an office for the United States manufacturer's paid representative and place at his disposal the sales force and the knowledge accumulated through previous experience, thus insuring a still better supervision of the manufacturer's interests.

[A list of Shanghai liquor dealers and general import houses may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81687. As shown in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 15, 1916 (p. 612), China imported \$447,412 worth of beer and porter in 1915, Shanghai's share in this trade being \$141,728.]

Proposed Argentine Coasting Trade Law.

The retiring President of Argentina presented to Congress a project for a new law to regulate the river and coasting trade of the country. The bill, which is published in a recent number of the *Boletín Oficial*, is awaiting the attention of the next Congress.

SWISS IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Oct. 5.]

The following tables give the quantities, in metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), and values of the Swiss imports of petroleum, paraffin and ceresin, vaseline, benzine, etc., during 1914, with the principal countries of origin, and the quantities, by countries, and total values for 1915:

Countries.	Quantities.		Value.	
	1914	1915	1914	1915
PETROLEUM				
	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>		
Austria-Hungary	11,650	72	\$404,701	.....
France	2	2	73	.....
Russia	87	65	3,022	.....
Roumania	284	4,471	9,863	.....
United States	28,290	28,317	932,798	.....
Argentina	1	.....	38	.....
Total	40,314	32,927	1,400,495	\$2,069,207
PARAFFIN AND CERESIN.				
Germany	70	41	9,755	.....
Austria-Hungary	669	149	92,867	.....
France	16	110	2,237	.....
Italy	13	31	1,779	.....
Belgium	13	.....	1,793	.....
United Kingdom	83	95	11,575	.....
Russia	92	.....	12,784	.....
Norway	21	.....	2,849	.....
British Indies	12	.....	1,598	.....
Dutch Indies	37	97	5,086	.....
China	10	.....	1,445	.....
United States	70	1,052	9,686	.....
All other countries	1	11	347	.....
Total	1,107	1,586	153,801	175,190
VASELINE.				
Germany	28	15	6,471	.....
France	3	37	510	.....
Italy	11	.....	1,936	.....
Belgium	27	.....	4,586	.....
United Kingdom	2	6	340	.....
Russia	.....	11	.....	.....
United States	69	50	11,685	.....
All other countries	4	.....	645	.....
Total	154	119	26,173	34,508
BENZINE.				
Germany	483	.....	32,620	.....
Austria-Hungary	1,983	49	133,938	.....
France	161	185	10,962	.....
Russia	514	.....	34,687	.....
Roumania	975	1,845	65,848	.....
Dutch Indies	3,081	.....	208,135	.....
United States	5,148	8,627	347,768	.....
All other countries	23	3	1,594	.....
Total	12,368	10,709	835,452	1,136,903

Depends Upon United States for Petroleum.

The statistics for petroleum do not include the imports of gasoline, petroleum distillates, etc., which during 1914 amounted to 43 metric tons, valued at \$3,708. Since the beginning of the war there have been increased imports of petroleum from Roumania and the United States. For the present Switzerland must depend almost entirely upon the United States for its supply of petroleum. In the recently published fourth neutrality report by the Federal Council the mer-

chandise division of the Swiss economics department states that purchases of American petroleum for delivery via Italian ports were made some time ago, and that some shipments already have been received. The consumption of petroleum has decreased, and, moreover, the dealers and the Federal Government are still in possession of considerable quantities.

Vaseline has been comparatively scarce in Switzerland for some time. As a substitute for benzine it is hoped that a supply of benzol may be obtained from Germany and Austria.

By decree dated February 12, 1916, the Federal Council placed the importation and sale of petroleum, benzine, etc., under the control of the bureau for the importation of petroleum and benzine of the Federal economics department. Private firms importing these products must first obtain the authorization of this bureau, which also establishes the maximum prices and is empowered to confiscate for the Government all supplies of such products in Switzerland.

Maximum Prices for Sales by Bureau.

The maximum prices, established June 5, 1916, at which the Federal bureau sells petroleum in 10-ton quantities are \$7.53 per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds), or \$6.10 per 100 liters (105.66 quarts). The maximum retail price for general consumption was fixed at 40 centimes (7.7 cents) per liter (1.05 quarts).

The bureau's similar wholesale prices for ordinary light benzine of Sp. Gr. 0.68 to 0.69 is \$16.88; for automobile benzine of Sp. Gr. 0.70 to 0.73, \$11.58; for wax benzine of Sp. Gr. 0.75 to 0.76, \$10.23; and for benzol of Sp. Gr. 0.88, \$11.19 per 100 kilos.

Attention is called to the fact that, in addition to the control of importation and sale in accordance with the decree of the Federal Council mentioned, agreements entered into by Switzerland require that these products shall be imported into Switzerland from or through the entente countries only upon authorization by and through the medium of the Swiss Import Trust (Société Suisse de Surveillance Économique) at Berne.

[A list of Swiss importers of petroleum, paraffin, etc., may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81487.]

STATE OF CROPS IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris. Oct. 27.]

The Journal Officiel a few days ago published the results of the official investigation of the Ministry of Agriculture concerning the state of crops on October 1, 1916. It is customary in these estimates to indicate by the figure 100 that the crops are excellent, while 80 means good, 60 means fair, 50 passable, and 30 poor. The figures for the present year are indicated below, and the figures for October 1, 1915, follow those for 1916 in parentheses:

Maize, 66 (64); potatoes, 58 (52); Jerusalem artichokes, 71 (69); green forage, 67 (60); sugar beets, 68 (58); beets for fodder, 67 (61); beets for distilleries, 70 (60); grapes, 50 (37); apples and pears for cider, 35 (65); flax, 59 (66); hemp, 58 (73); hops, 60 (70); tobacco, 62 (64).

BRAZIL STUDIES POSSIBLE SOURCES OF KIMBERLITE.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 24.]

Mention was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 9, 1916, of the presence in Brazil of eruptive masses commonly known as "pipes" of kimberlite, or diamond matrix. Since that time some correspondence from the United States has reached this office showing that the subject is of special interest.

Brazilian diamond mining has traditionally been placer mining. Perhaps there existed vague expectations of findings the mother-lode "farther up," but these never appeared to attract attention until the arrival in this country, in 1909, of Samuel Draper the geologist, discoverer of the Premier mine in South Africa.

Report from State of Minas Geraes.

When Mr. Draper had completed certain examinations of the Aguas Suias mine at Baggagem, in the State of Minas Geraes—a placer mine and an ancient conglomerate lying high above the present river levels—he believed he had found traces of a broken-down "pipe" of kimberlite. In 1913 he took up the question with Dr. Derby, Government geologist, and with a petrographer in the service of the Brazilian Government named Everard Riemann, at Tiros, a village in the State of Minas Geraes on a branch of the São Francisco River, in the Serra de Matta da Corda, where he believed further evidence of kimberlite had been found.

In 1914 Dr. Derby sent the petrographer mentioned and Horace Williams, a geologist, together on an expedition to Tiros and beyond to investigate. They returned, bringing reports which did not appear to furnish evidence that was quite conclusive.

In 1915 Mr. Riemann went alone on a mission to Tiros and beyond that point. He reported, it is said, the discovery of at least five "pipes" of kimberlite. Toward the close of that year Dr. Derby made an official report of these conditions to the Brazilian Government.

The Government has given serious consideration to this matter and is awaiting further reports of a geologist and a petrographer who are now studying conditions.

APPLE GROWING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Harry S. Culver, St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 15.]

The Apple Growers Association, in connection with the Department of Agriculture of the Province of New Brunswick, has been working diligently for the past five years to bring the orchards, some of them old and virtually abandoned, to a state of successful and profitable bearing, and the results are astonishing. The display of fruit at the recent fair, although perhaps not the largest held in Canada, could not be excelled in color, quality, or size of the fruit. Such varieties as the Northern Spy, Golden Russet, King of Tompkins, Gravenstien, Bishop Pippin, Fameuse, Wealthy, and Banada Baldwins were in their most perfect development, showing that New Brunswick has the soil and climate necessary for the production of the perfect fruit, if only modern methods are applied. The efforts put forth by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and the Apple Growers Association has greatly increased the interest in apple growing among the people of the Province.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana....	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.....	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.....	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Morgan, Henry H.....	Hamburg, Germany....	Dec. 1	Knickerbocker Hotel, Forty-second Street and Broadway, New York City.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby.....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendall, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Spahr, Herman L.....	Montevideo, Uruguay....	Dec. 1	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark..	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon....	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 30	Do.

PROPOSED MERGER OF CHILEAN SUGAR REFINERIES.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Oct. 24.]

The Diario Ilustrado of October 23 states that negotiations are being carried on for the consolidation of the Refinería de Azúcar de Viña del Mar and the Refinería de Azúcar de Penco. These are the two principal sugar refineries in Chile [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 8, 1915], and they would practically monopolize the local industry. Chile's imports of raw sugar for refining amounted in 1914 to about 75,000 tons, and in 1915 to about 67,000 tons. In these same years refined sugar was imported to the extent of 8,500 tons and 3,300 tons, respectively. The raw sugar comes chiefly from Peru.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural implements.....	23121	Machines, can-making.....	23127
Carpets and rugs.....	23124	Medicines.....	23129
Condensed milk.....	23119	Paper, printing.....	23128
Cotton goods.....	23126	Provisions.....	23129
Crockery and glassware.....	23128	Salt.....	23132
Cutlery.....	23124	Sanitary articles.....	23125
Fancy goods.....	23124, 23126	Shoe laces.....	23131
Hardware and tools.....	23124, 23129	Silks and silk ribbons.....	23126, 23130
Jewelry.....	23120	Sprayers.....	23122
Leather and leather goods.....	23126	Stationery.....	23126, 23129
Lithographing supplies.....	23123	Toys.....	23124, 23126

- 23119.*—A wholesale merchant in Spain desires to purchase condensed milk. Correspondence may be in English. Cash will be paid.
- 23120.†—An export firm on the Pacific Coast of the United States informs the Bureau that it is in receipt of an inquiry from Russia regarding jewelry. References.
- 23121.*—The fiscal agency of an American Mission in China desires to enter into communication with American exporters of agricultural implements.
- 23122.†—A fruit-canning company in Hawaii desires quotations and full particulars regarding knapsack and other types of small arsenic sprayers for eradication of grass and weeds; also similar sprayers for using sulphate of copper for the destruction of fungi, etc. Sprayers must be of suitable weight to be readily carried over rough land between closely planted fruit trees and shrubs.
- 23123.*—The owner of a lithographing establishment in Spain desires to purchase lithographing supplies, including colors. References. Correspondence in Spanish or French.
- 23124.*—A man who has been in Australia for the past two and one-half years in the interests of American exporters is about to proceed to the United States to procure additional agencies for the sale of such merchandise as toys, fancy goods, rugs and carpets, various small tools, and cutlery. Exclusive agencies are desired.
- 23125.*—A firm of manufacturers and wholesalers of pharmaceutical and chemical products in Switzerland wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers of sanitary articles of hard and soft rubber and of glass and wood. Correspondence in German or French is preferred.
- 23126.*—An established manufacturers' agent in Brazil and Argentina desires to enter into communication with American manufacturers of stationery and printing papers, leather and leather goods, silks and silk ribbons, cotton goods, fancy goods, and toys. Reference. Correspondence in English.
- 23127.*—A merchant in India wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers of machines for making tin cans, used for putting up fruit, tea, etc. The machines are to be worked by hand and high capacity is not required.
- 23128.*—A merchant in the West Indies desires to secure the agency for cheap glassware, crockery, and china. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.
- 23129.†—A merchant in West Africa desires to receive particulars from manufacturers and exporters of medicines, provisions, stationery, light hardware, and small tools.
- 23130.†—A firm in Sweden wishes to be placed in touch with an American manufacturer and exporter of silks. Reference. Correspondence in English.
- 23131.†—A firm in Switzerland desires to receive quotations on cotton shoe laces with metal tips. Samples are desired. Rate of commission should be stated.
- 23132.*—A firm in Canada desires to be placed in communication with salt manufacturers in the United States, preferably in Michigan.

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No. 281 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 29 1916

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SPAIN'S IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND CORN IN SEPTEMBER.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 30.]

The imports of wheat into Spain during September amounted to 16,251 tons, a decrease of 4,611 tons compared with August, 1916. Of the month's receipts, 7,768 tons came from the United States, but only 5,220 tons of the total imports were discharged at Barcelona, and difficulty is experienced in securing sufficient wheat for food purposes.

There were 11,004 tons of corn of South American origin imported at the various ports of Spain during September.

FRANCE CREATES A COMMERCIAL REGISTER.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Vedlitz, Paris, Nov. 3.]

The French Minister of Commerce has prepared a bill, soon to be presented to the National Legislature, establishing a Commercial Register, similar to those which for some years have been in existence in several European countries, particularly Scandinavia.

According to the bill, this register will constitute a sort of official reference list of French and foreign merchants established in France. It will contain detailed information concerning their citizenship and nationality, their personal and conjugal status, and their commercial record and affiliations. In the case of corporations the register will indicate the name of the company, the names of its officials, and the location of the principal office in France or abroad, as well as information concerning branch offices or agencies in France or elsewhere.

This official record of mercantile concerns will be in charge of the Tribunal de Commerce, where it will be kept up to date and be at the disposal of the public. Persons seeking information regarding firms with which they may have, or with which they may seek, business relations may thus be rapidly and accurately informed concerning their status.

TREBIZOND FILBERT CROP FOR 1916.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, Trebizond, Turkey, Oct. 17.]

It is obvious that in a district occupied by two belligerent forces it is impossible to obtain official and comprehensive crop statistics. Still, though no figures are available for the many small villages comprised in this consular district (which usually yield abundant quantities of filberts), it has been found possible to estimate this year's crop for the immediate vicinity of Trebizond proper. This estimate is 4,340,000 pounds, as against 17,551,000 pounds in 1913 and 31,000,000 in 1914, an abnormal year. About 2,480,000 pounds were left on hand from last year's crop, making the total present stock 6,820,000 pounds, which is rapidly diminishing. The export of nuts is forbidden by the authorities. Small quantities are sold for eating purposes, but the bulk of the stock is either sold to local firms which crush out the oil from the nuts or is being held for higher prices.

To-day's wholesale price for unshelled nuts is 3.50 rubles a pood, which at the standard rate of exchange equals \$5 per 100 pounds. The normal price before the war was \$5.66 per 100 pounds, but in April, 1916, it had fallen to \$1.06, owing to the large quantities then on hand. Although at first glance it would seem that the present rate is approximately normal, such is really not the case when the difference in the present and pre-war value of the ruble is taken into consideration. [Normally the ruble is worth \$0.515 U. S. gold; now it is quoted at \$0.30.] Prices are rapidly augmenting, however, and it will not be surprising if they eventually surpass the normal ones.

Yield in Previous Years.

In this connection a short review of the crops of the district for the past five years may be of interest. In 1910-11 the crop of filberts was smaller than in 1909-10, showing a difference of 24,000,000 pounds. The total exports for the season were 107,113,300 pounds, to which 5 per cent for local consumption should be added to show the total amount produced. Of these exports 48 per cent went to Germany, 22 per cent to Austria, 10 per cent to France, 10 per cent to Egypt, 4 per cent to America, 3 per cent to England, and 3 per cent to other countries. The crop of the 1911-12 season proved to be much smaller, the total being only 58,591,400 pounds. Prices were consequently much higher; they reached \$6.11 per 100 pounds as compared with \$4.02 in 1910-11.

Three years before the landowners began to give scientific and systematic attention to the cultivation of the trees instead of letting them grow wild. New groves were also planted and the soil more carefully treated. That their efforts were well rewarded is proved by the fact that in 1912-13 the crop amounted to 74,475,400 pounds, and the quality was considered slightly better. In 1913-14 the previously unheard of amount of 148,800,000 pounds was harvested. Excellent climatic conditions were partly responsible, but the additional care expended undoubtedly largely contributed in making such a result possible.

Canadian Bank to Open Venezuelan Branch.

Consul Herbert R. Wright reports, under date of November 13, that the Royal Bank of Canada has rented quarters and will soon establish a branch bank in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela.

CHILEAN INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago.]

The Chilean Industrial Exposition which was organized under the supervision of the Sociedad de Fomento Fabril [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 12, 1916] was formally opened at Santiago on September 17 by the President of Chile before a gathering of public officials and diplomatic representatives of foreign countries. This exposition is attracting wide attention, for it demonstrates that Chilean industries have been spurred to an unprecedented development by the needs resulting from the European war. The *Diario Ilustrado* of Santiago is publishing a series of articles on the various classes of exhibits, devoting a day to each group. A summary of these articles is given below.

Exhibits of Foodstuffs.

Forty manufacturers of foodstuffs have exhibits at the exposition, but this number is said to be only a small proportion of the Chilean houses actually engaged in the preparation of edibles. Among the exhibits are canned and preserved fruits and vegetables of excellent quality and relatively inexpensive; native salt and sugar of various kinds; candy, biscuits, vermicelli, and flour; and packing-house products in great variety. Special flours, malted milk, and baby food of domestic manufacture, which are acceptably taking the place of the formerly imported preparations of this class, are here displayed extensively.

Beverages, Alcoholic and Nonalcoholic.

Of the 150 Chilean establishments manufacturing alcohol, liquors, beer, soft drinks, and mineral waters, 37 are represented at the exposition. It is in this field that the industries of Chile have shown the greatest development. Every kind of liquor is manufactured in the country, and there is scarcely a Chilean product that does not bear a foreign name or label, for the reason that the foreign name increases the value from 50 to 70 per cent. "It is absurd," says the *Diario Ilustrado*, "but it is a fact." It may be added that in the opinion of some connoisseurs, Chilean wine compares favorably with that of France and other wine-producing countries, but the only foreign market which it has thus far developed to a considerable extent is the Argentine.

China and Glassware.

Two of the six Chilean manufacturers of china and glass ware have exhibits at the exposition, the "Manufactura de Vidrios" and the "Sociedad Nacional de Vidrios," both established in Santiago and employing a total of 2,000 workmen. The "Manufactura de Vidrios" exhibits apparatus for the use of clinics and laboratories, besides lamp globes, flower pots, jars, and Japanese ware, and a variety of white and colored glassware. This factory can produce 10,000 kilos of glass a day, which means 25,000 to 30,000 pieces. Preparations are now being made to manufacture plate glass made by a costly process that has not heretofore been attempted in Chile. The domestic glass is usually retailed as an imported product.

The "Sociedad Fabrica Nacional de Vidrios" manufactures beer and wine bottles, demijohns, and other heavy-utility glassware, which

it displays in the form of a small house built entirely of bottles, with a roof made of the straw containers in which the wine bottles are shipped. The producing capacity of this factory is 36,000,000 bottles, and it can supply almost the entire demand of the country.

Light, Heat, and Fuel.

Five exhibitors have displays in this section. The Santiago Gas Co. exhibits stoves and various household appliances consuming gas, but its products do not appear to be much in demand, judging from the large imports of stoves. The match factory, *Compañía Chilena de Fósforos*, has an interesting exhibit, and this domestic product seems to give satisfaction, since the manufacturers are able to dispose of their total output in the country. They make two grades of matches, one quite obviously of local manufacture, and the other labeled "Made in Sweden," the price being the same for both kinds. Two briquette manufacturers have displays which have attracted much attention, resulting in a number of sales, due particularly to the present high price of coal. Both exhibitors have patented their processes of manufacture. The ultimate cost of the briquettes is about the same as that of coal at present, and it is thought doubtful if this fuel could compete with coal at normal prices.

Wearing Apparel—Cordage.

There are more than 100 factories in Chile turning out ready-made clothing for men and women, underwear, shirts, corsets, umbrellas, parasols, and waterproofs, and to this number may be added 30 dressmaking schools that have a large output of salable goods. The work of only 17 factories and one school is shown at this exposition. Several factories refrained from exhibiting their products, it is said, because the articles are sold in the local market as imported goods, this being particularly true in the case of makers of straw hats, neckties, etc. The Chilean knitting industry has developed greatly in the past two years, there being now seven knitting mills in Santiago, all well supplied with orders. The products of the local knitting mills appear to compare favorably with imported knit goods.

The cordage exhibit of "*La Sociedad Industrial de la Andes*" is very interesting. The firm's representative stated that it employs 350 workers and can not supply the demand for its products. It is making efforts at the exposition to interest farmers in the growing of hemp, for the difficulty in securing raw material appears to be the chief obstacle to the increased production of cordage. It distributes literature on the raising of hemp.

Lumber and Furniture.

Under this section are exhibits of furniture, picture molding, barrels and casks, doors and windows, veneering, parquets, and cornices. Of the lumber used in these articles, 90 per cent comes from the forests in the southern part of Chile. This lumber has given splendid results and has taken the place of much of the imported lumber. The *Sociedad Nacional de Buques y Maderas* of Santiago has an important lumber exhibit, consisting in large part of moldings, cornices, parquets, and boxes. This company manufactures 50 per cent of the packing and other boxes used in Chile. In construction mate-

rial the company is pushing shingles to take the place of zinc. It also shows a variety of articles used in the manufacture of carriages and carts and displays a collection of furniture.

The *Diario Ilustrado* is enthusiastic over the domestic production of furniture and affirms that without any doubt 90 per cent of the furniture bought in Chile to-day is of local manufacture. The furniture makers are taking advantage, with splendid results, of the great Chilean forests, where many of the woods are found to be adopted to the construction of the finest class of furniture. The furniture styles which predominate in the local market are North American and "art decoratif," but representatives of all periods are seen, including Renaissance, Florentine, and Gothic. There are also interesting exhibits of cane and bamboo furniture. A local furniture dealer stated that, owing to the high freight rates, he was forced to manufacture his furniture, though he had never manufactured it until two years ago, but, rather, advertised the fact that his furniture was imported. At present he uses local wood for certain articles and imported wood for so-called imported furniture, all of which is really made in his own shop.

THE PAPER SITUATION IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 21.]

There are many Brazilian products that could be used in the making of paper. The cellulose obtained from the bagasse of sugar cane and the crushed stalks and trunks of the banana plant are among these. About 15 years ago some effort was made to utilize the cellulose of the bagasse for this purpose and a concession was granted at the time. This concession, however, has probably expired by now. Nothing has ever been done here with the pulp of the banana tree, but it is regarded as possibly an exportable product by many.

Inquiries from United States Regarding Paper Material.

Representatives of American concerns have called at this consulate general, and a number of business correspondents have inquired in the same direction, all of whom desired to know what the possibilities were of finding in Brazil fiber plants, reeds, etc., that could be available in quantities for paper making. The reply has been that in a country geographically so vast as Brazil and whose natural resources are as little developed, their best course was to try the various samples of fibrous plants submitted to them, and upon deciding on their eligibility to ascertain the location where each of them grew in most profusion, and to try to make their arrangements not with the Federal Government but with the individual States where the plants are obtainable, it being provided by Brazilian law that a so-called "extractive" industry is a matter in which each State has the right to give concessions and privileges, to impose export taxes, etc.

Pine Paper Pulp of Parana.

Apart from the vegetable fibers there is a possible source of supply for the American paper mills which appears to have been overlooked. It is that of the pine paper pulp of the State of Parana. The State of Parana is thickly wooded with pine, which is sawed locally and consumed in large quantities within the country itself, although

pine from the Baltic and from the United States are both imported. There are sawmills here, the property of the Brazil Railway, which is at present under a receivership (W. T. Nolting, agent of the receiver; address, care the Brazil Railway, São Paulo) and which might be negotiated with to provide paper pulp in quantities.

Some interest in all these matters has been expressed by members of the Sociedade Nacional da Agricultura, a body composed chiefly of landowners and agricultural technologists. This office will be glad to place American firms who are interested in contact with this society, or with others here.

Imports of Paper and Country of Origin.

In view of the scarcity of paper in Brazil at present, the statistics below have been compiled for the benefit of exporters in the United States. The following table shows the imports of printing, writing, and other paper, with their sources, and their c. i. f. value, from 1911 to 1915:

Countries of origin.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
PRINTING PAPER.					
Germany.....	\$765,014	\$807,733	\$944,823	\$374,910	\$100,198
Austria-Hungary.....	52,426	48,558	125,067	37,532	4,136
Belgium.....	163,369	115,282	141,080	55,540	634
United States.....	15,500	14,004	20,259	28,194	311,423
France.....	20,242	18,687	80,554	11,319	2,626
Great Britain.....	58,759	62,938	80,229	55,690	123,533
Netherlands.....	137,310	144,226	255,499	105,346	75,108
Italy.....	59,587	40,493	40,963	28,155	64,519
Norway.....	258,519	403,648	461,008	381,619	885,709
Sweden.....	229,808	404,293	335,966	242,832	407,615
Other countries.....	12,664	11,206	24,706	10,578	15,498
Total.....	1,770,098	2,171,040	2,457,712	1,329,702	2,070,530
WRITING PAPER.					
Germany.....	230,842	227,512	271,632	90,796	17,543
Austria-Hungary.....	59,414	54,139	51,972	21,832	685
Belgium.....	12,342	6,939	9,572	2,677	46
United States.....	8,755	13,364	11,572	5,680	17,446
France.....	22,910	16,837	15,685	11,669	8,327
Great Britain.....	44,738	33,749	44,963	17,148	36,064
Netherlands.....	11,345	5,507	9,651	1,726	16,336
Italy.....	108,382	77,633	66,606	54,675	94,625
All other countries.....	2,011	2,770	5,613	4,187	15,964
Total.....	500,739	438,450	487,286	210,390	207,236
OTHER PAPER.					
Germany.....	765,259	707,442	618,028	237,889	64,961
Austria-Hungary.....	66,867	80,876	88,169	34,965	2,022
Belgium.....	44,123	43,121	59,113	18,163	443
United States.....	54,610	65,848	68,505	30,197	128,118
France.....	65,973	78,421	118,014	46,276	42,385
Great Britain.....	62,295	82,301	74,805	30,273	70,522
Netherlands.....	14,264	24,419	23,637	17,757	23,964
Italy.....	122,160	91,757	112,846	95,070	205,648
Norway.....	105,793	114,923	82,015	47,238	81,864
Sweden.....	174,332	154,782	155,597	79,078	157,444
All other countries.....	11,489	18,485	23,960	11,774	31,317
Total.....	1,487,764	1,461,775	1,421,670	648,690	810,038

Imports of Paper by Ports.

The port of Rio de Janeiro is the principal distributing point of foreign imported merchandise, followed by Santos, Pernambuco, Bahia, Para, and Porto Alegre. Of the \$2,070,530 imports of printing paper into Brazil in 1915, more than half entered the port of Rio de Janeiro, and of the \$207,236 imports of writing paper, the greater

portion entered the same port. The following table shows the imports into Brazil of printing, writing, and other paper, by ports, for the past five years:

Ports of entry.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
PRINTING PAPER.					
Manaos.....	\$12,929	\$19,570	\$22,302	\$8,388	\$7,486
Para.....	60,784	44,702	45,474	32,731	95,228
Maranhao.....	20,884	22,451	30,478	18,329	20,228
Cabedello.....	16,755	16,400	10,665	6,675	1,532
Pernambuco.....	134,260	160,196	127,815	125,100	199,065
Maceio.....	17,920	16,890	15,496	15,614	6,495
Bahia.....	54,672	78,042	126,713	38,089	68,625
Rio de Janeiro.....	875,641	1,100,608	1,193,815	687,948	1,100,618
Santos.....	416,383	535,168	674,861	325,162	425,512
Rio Grande do Sul, Pelotas, Porto Alegre, and other customs ports of Rio Grande do Sul.....	(a)	(a)	154,452	50,279	134,623
All other ports.....	159,870	177,220	55,341	23,387	11,128
Total.....	1,770,098	2,171,040	2,457,712	1,329,702	2,070,530
WRITING PAPER.					
Manaos.....	15,745	14,816	17,194	4,942	5,321
Para.....	26,587	25,564	24,899	5,800	12,474
Maranhao.....	10,245	7,524	7,736	3,604	2,056
Ceara.....	15,493	9,590	7,934	2,346	465
Pernambuco.....	27,450	13,268	18,539	9,456	9,623
Bahia.....	46,914	29,196	44,227	17,300	15,365
Rio de Janeiro.....	208,128	164,783	186,654	100,794	115,569
Santos.....	97,445	127,047	143,164	36,494	32,269
Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Pelotas, and other customs ports of Rio Grande do Sul.....	(a)	(a)	22,222	15,018	11,249
All other ports.....	52,732	46,662	31,717	14,546	2,855
Total.....	500,739	438,450	487,286	210,390	207,236
OTHER PAPER.					
Manaos.....	21,183	23,096	22,608	5,135	17,779
Para.....	64,416	72,456	78,827	27,418	38,586
Ceara.....	21,568	13,564	16,933	4,529	2,906
Pernambuco.....	99,230	97,039	87,806	43,355	54,094
Bahia.....	83,193	83,414	71,598	33,133	25,141
Rio de Janeiro.....	667,998	591,085	602,043	323,777	443,620
Santos.....	321,021	340,573	375,994	133,947	161,763
Rio Grande do Sul, Pelotas, Porto Alegre, and other customs ports of Rio Grande do Sul.....	(a)	(a)	88,964	47,543	52,831
Other ports.....	218,525	239,948	86,897	29,843	13,339
Total.....	1,487,164	1,461,775	1,421,670	648,680	810,059

a Given separately by ports for 1911 and 1912.

PERUVIAN TRANSPORT FOR NEW YORK CARGO TRADE.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Peru, Oct. 26.]

The firm of Rocco & Miller, Callao, has chartered the Peruvian transport *Iquitos*, of 2,083 tons net, for the purpose of transporting general cargo from Peruvian ports to New York and return. This vessel is scheduled to depart from Callao on November 1, 1916, taking a cargo of sugar, hides, ores, etc. Its return cargo is expected to be general merchandise, railroad material, and cement. It will have available space for return cargo of 1,000 to 1,500 tons. Its agent in New York will be Wessel, Duval & Co.

This ship is under charter from the Peruvian Government to Rocco & Miller for one year. It will make other trips to New York if the return freights and cargo are satisfactory. The steamer recently made a trip to Liverpool under charter of the same firm, and also one to Chilean ports.

GUAYAQUIL MARKET CONDITIONS FOR OCTOBER.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Nov. 11.]

The cacao market in October remained about the same as during September [the Guayaquil market review for September was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* on Nov. 9, 1916], although the Asociacion reduced its buying price 1 sucre (\$0.423) per quintal (101.4 pounds). It is therefore now paying \$11.86 for arriba superior. The export duty of 1 sucre per quintal was increased by this year's Congress to 3 sucres in order to assist the Asociacion in maintaining its prices abroad. The receipts of cacao still continue to increase, arrivals to date being 215,770 quintals in excess of those for the corresponding period of 1915. This year's crop is the largest ever harvested in Ecuador. The largest single shipment made from this port on one steamer was that made on the American steamer *Clare*, which loaded 41,000 bags of cacao for New York. The exports for the month were as follows, in pounds: To Chile, 13,644; France, 1,269,554; Peru, 18,025; Spain, 233,780; United Kingdom, 1,003,604; and the United States, 9,055,913; total, 11,594,520 pounds.

The coffee market was firm, with quite an advance in prices, \$8.26 being asked for first grade and \$7.63 for second grade. The coffee exported during the month amounted to 450,023 pounds, distributed as follows: To Chile, 281,321 pounds; France, 133,587; Peru, 5,132; Spain, 29,791; and the United States, 192 pounds.

Rubber was quiet but firm at the same prices as for September, namely, \$23.30 for maromas and \$19.07 for hojas. The shipments for the month, which amounted to 33,488 pounds, all went to the United States.

Hides were firm, with gradually advancing prices. Quotations for the month were \$19.07 for serranos, \$17.80 for criollos, and \$9.32 for picados. Exports totaled 271,131 pounds, of which Spain took 25,633 pounds and the United States 245,498 pounds.

The tagua market has been very quiet, quotations being \$0.85 for unshelled nuts. There were no exports during the month.

The imports during September amounted to 91,951 packages weighing 16,162 tons. They were from the following countries: Chile, 1,952 packages; Cuba, 1; France, 1,156; Holland, 35; Italy, 3; Peru, 1,900; Spain, 1,741; Sweden, 2; United Kingdom, 18,569; and the United States, 66,592. The rate of exchange on the United States was 236.

GREEK PURCHASES OF AMERICAN WARES.

The sale of \$13,650 worth of American beans, upper leather \$5,000, oleo oil \$7,000, paper \$6,000, pencils \$1,000, and a large quantity of sheeting to various firms in Saloniki, and of \$15,000 worth of miscellaneous manufactures to the city's leading department store are among the trade results for the September quarter reported by Consul John E. Kehl, of that Greek port. The consul adds: "Some of these firms were interested in American products through American inquiries addressed to this office; the others formed American connections by consulting American commercial directories and trade magazines in the consulate reading room."

REPORT ON COTTON SEED AND COTTONSEED PRODUCTS.

The United States Bureau of the Census has issued a report on the quantity of cotton seed received, consumed, and on hand, and of cottonseed products manufactured, shipped out, and on hand, and imports and exports of cottonseed products for the two-month period from August 1 to September 30, 1916. Statistics concerning the refining, consumption, and stocks of cottonseed oil are being collected and will be included in a subsequent report.

The quantity of cotton seed received at oil mills from August 1 to September 30 was 1,053,331 tons; the quantity crushed from August 1 to September 30 was 413,205 tons; and the quantity on hand at oil mills on September 30 was 655,618 tons.

Statistics of cottonseed products manufactured, shipped out, and on hand, as prepared by the Census Bureau, are as follows:

Item.	Produced from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.	Shipped out from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.	On hand at mills on Sept. 30.
Crude oil pounds..	119,933,091	79,854,589	41,906,199
Cake and meal..... tons..	196,314	205,157	103,320
Hulls.....do.....	101,112	56,990	120,899
Linters.....500-pound bales..	97,928	41,405	64,572
Hull fiber.....do.....	58,138	64,419	6,787
Motes, grabbots, and sweepings.....do.....	877	809	3,179

* Includes 11,526 tons of hulls, 4,163 bales of linters, 2,618 bales of hull fiber, and 963 bales of motes, grabbots, and sweepings owned by the mills, but stored elsewhere than at the plants.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended November 25:

Thermoelectric Measurement of Critical Ranges of Pure Iron (Standards Scientific Paper 296).—Describes methods and apparatus used, with summary and conclusions of results. Price, 5 cents.

Failure of Brass: 2. Effect of corrosion on the ductility and strength of brass (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 83).—Describes experimental measurements of the electrolytic potential of brass under stress. Price, 5 cents.

Failure of Brass: 3. Initial stress produced by the "burning in" of manganese bronze (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 84).—Gives results of investigation to determine the failure of certain manganese bronze valve castings which were found defective. Price, 5 cents.

Cotton Goods in British Indian: Part 1. Madras Presidency (Special Agents Series 124).—Suggestions to American manufacturers concerning classes of goods for which there is a demand and the methods under which trade is conducted. Price, 10 cents.

Survey of Typical Cooperative Stores in the United States (Agriculture Department Bulletin 394).—Describes organization and operation of cooperative stores, an effective plan for reducing the great expense of distribution and the resulting high cost of living. Price, 10 cents.

PYROMETER TUBES MADE BY NEW PROCESS.

A firm for which an installation for the manufacture of Marquardt porcelain pyrometer tubes has been designed and supervised by the United States Bureau of Standards is now marketing these products, which are at least equal in quality to the refractory porcelain formerly obtained only from the Royal Porcelain Manufactory at Berlin. The composition and process of manufacture were worked out by this bureau.

ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN COMMERCE FOR OCTOBER.

The usual monthly statement of the foreign trade of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports by great groups during October and the 10 months ended October, 1916, are presented in the following statement:

Imports and exports.	Month of October—		10 months ended October—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$63,780,131	\$60,850,195	\$359,596,424	\$555,499,065
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	24,343,049	28,189,543	208,915,050	197,419,871
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	24,446,593	14,248,574	295,346,834	238,331,729
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	31,144,653	20,705,956	349,988,855	211,183,598
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	29,932,310	23,950,275	283,968,103	238,128,822
Miscellaneous.....	2,011,994	1,219,186	17,018,132	10,703,835
Total imports.....	178,658,730	140,172,729	2,009,833,398	1,451,267,515
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	85,589,733	56,613,923	544,472,908	475,645,583
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	38,099,854	23,645,749	332,105,474	402,902,577
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	54,871,370	80,486,308	533,947,274	432,388,233
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	87,252,460	41,902,920	732,144,545	374,656,999
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	209,385,424	136,227,510	2,171,745,264	1,004,280,939
Miscellaneous.....	8,970,584	11,070,140	77,073,887	107,331,249
Total domestic exports.....	485,109,375	329,947,550	4,391,489,247	2,819,302,939
Foreign merchandise exported.....	6,444,543	6,204,469	49,637,024	48,391,193
Total exports.....	490,613,918	335,152,009	4,441,126,271	2,867,694,132

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" in October, 1916, were: Horses, \$6,636,342; mules, \$3,083,252; and seeds, \$230,438; and for ten months ended October, 1916: Horses, \$52,570,044; mules, \$22,130,389; and seeds, \$2,095,075.

LOBSTERS SUCCESSFULLY SHIPPED ACROSS CONTINENT.

The most successful shipment of lobsters across the continent that has ever been made was completed by the United States Bureau of Fisheries on November 24, when 5,400 of the crustaceans were liberated off Orcas Island, in the State of Washington. The shipment represented an additional carload of adult lobsters sent from Maine as an important step in the bureau's efforts to establish eastern lobsters on the Pacific coast.

The car left Boothbay Harbor on November 18 and arrived at Anacortes, Wash., November 23. The shipment originally consisted of approximately 6,000 lobsters, weighing 9,000 pounds. At Anacortes the lobsters were received by the superintendent of the Baker Lake (Wash.) hatchery, who transferred them to previously provided live cars, which were towed to the San Juan Islands in Puget Sound. This region has been definitely ascertained to afford suitable physical and biological conditions for the growth of lobsters. The total loss in transit was less than 10 per cent, and the rest were in excellent condition.

MAILING SHIPPING DOCUMENTS TO ITALY.

[Consul John H. Grout, Milan, Nov. 2.]

Since Italy's entrance into the war much delay and inconvenience have been caused Italian business houses dealing in American goods by their failure to receive shipping documents until long after the arrival of the merchandise at Italian ports. Upon the declaration of the war the Italian Government established a censorship over all mail from neutral countries. Mail arriving from the United States has been sent to Bologna for examination before delivery. The office at that place has, consequently, been overburdened, with the result that parcels containing shipping documents have often been delayed 8 to 10 days before delivery to business houses here.

The American Chamber of Commerce for Italy in Milan has recently taken the matter up with the Italian authorities, with the result that arrangements have now been made whereby envelopes plainly marked "Contains nothing but shipping documents" will be dealt with and delivered within 24 hours after receipt by the censor's office. This office, however, requests that no other letters be inclosed.

This decision will prove a great relief to consignees in Milan, inasmuch as instances have been numerous where the goods, having arrived at the Italian port, have been stored at the expense of the receiver until such time as he has been able to get hold of the shipping documents coming to him by way of the censor's office.

ITALIAN CROPS IN 1916.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Nov. 2.]

Crop returns just made public give Italy's wheat harvest for 1916 as 4,804,400 metric tons (of 2,204.62 pounds), which is 163,000 tons more than in the preceding year, but 82 tons below the average for the six years ending with 1915. The production of rye was 135,700 tons, barley 220,100, and oats 387,500, slightly inferior to the amount raised in 1915 and under the average for the sexennial period ending with 1915. Emilia led in wheat production with 763,300 tons. The figures for corn are not as yet available, although it is known that drought heavily damaged the crop. The yield is estimated at not over 2,000,000 tons.

Rice is the only cereal that produced a good harvest, estimated at 531,100 tons. The sugar-beet crop is better in both quantity and quality than was anticipated. The cotton crop in Sicily was fair. Grapes were of the finest quality; a provisory estimate is 5,924,600 tons—546,100 tons less than the average for the preceding six years. A fair olive crop is predicted, conditions in Apulia and Sicily being very favorable.

PRODUCTION OF OYSTERS AT AUCKLAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 28.]

During the oyster season just closed there were 9,396 sacks of oysters taken from the oyster beds along the coast of the North Island, of which Auckland consumed 8,460 sacks. The question of developing the oyster industry in this vicinity is receiving much attention, not only by local interests, but on the part of the New Zealand Government.

BEAN MARKET OF CENTRAL CHINA.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, Oct. 13.]

It is doubtful if any bean of the type known in the United States as the navy bean is produced in this consular district, though probably it reaches Hankow in small quantities from Szechuan Province.

Sixty kinds of beans and peas are grown in China, but very few of these are exported. The most important exported varieties are horse beans, locally called broad beans, white peas, and yellow and black soya beans. The first two are exported from Hankow and are sold in large quantities to Japan, the United Kingdom, and France.

Horse beans are used in France for milling purposes, and in the United Kingdom chiefly for cattle food. Their present price is from 1.50 taels (\$1.16) to 1.70 taels (\$1.31) per picul (133½ pounds).

White peas are grown and exported in small quantities, and it is stated that since 1909 the exports have gradually diminished. The price of this bean is about 10 per cent above that of the horse bean.

Recent Market Values of Various Kinds of Beans.

Soya beans may be purchased more advantageously at Harbin and Vladivostok. Yellow beans may be purchased on the local market, and at present the market value is 2 taels (\$1.54) per picul, while the price of black beans is 2.20 taels (\$1.70) and that of green beans 2.30 taels (\$1.77). A small green pea, not usually exported, is sold locally for 2.20 taels (\$1.70) per picul.

The nearest approach to the navy bean is a small pea, a little more round. The former is white, while the latter is yellowish. It is not grown for export or in large quantities. Dealers here state that the white bean similar to the navy is produced in Szechuan Province, but it is generally believed that it is not exported to foreign countries. It can not be obtained in large quantities, and it would require considerable time to collect even a few tons. It is stated that this bean is sold by the native medicine shops in various colors—black, blue, red, and white—and is used for a disease of the skin. It is said that it aids digestion. At the time of the Dragon Boat Festival the Chinese use these beans for their choicest dishes, oftentimes in design similar to the national flag. A local firm states: "These beans appear in very small quantities, and we think the most that could be procured would be a few tons, if sufficient notice were given. We do not look upon this commodity as an article of export."

Merchants Give Data Regarding Year's Crop.

There are no Government crop forecasts, but from local merchants the following data regarding this year's crop of beans have been obtained. Broad or horse beans and yellow beans are the most important:

Yellow beans—Annual crop approximately 200,000 tons. This year's crop is about 30 per cent short of the average. Price, 2 taels (\$1.54) per picul.

Broad beans—Annual crop approximately 100,000 tons. This year's crop is about 20 per cent larger than usual. Price, 1.20 taels (\$0.93) per picul.

White beans—Annual crop approximately 10,000 tons. This year's crop is only 60 per cent of the ordinary production. Price, 1.70 taels (\$1.31) per picul.

Black beans—Annual crop approximately 1,000 tons. Price, 2.20 taels (\$1.70) per picul.

Green beans—Annual crop approximately 1,000 tons. Price, 2.30 taels (\$1.77) per picul.

Green peas—Annual crop approximately 10,000 tons. Price, 1.80 to 2.20 taels per picul (\$1.39 to \$1.70).

It is stated that in Hankow machine-driven cleaners are used, particularly for broad and yellow beans. The principal make is Howe's Eureka cleaner, though in some instances these have been copied and something similar made locally. Beans pass through four sieves which have meshes of different sizes, and by this process the small beans, peas, and dirt are removed. Locally the bean is brought to Hankow from up the Han River bearing 15 to 20 per cent of dirt in the gross weight.

Cleaned by Exporters and Cargo Repacked.

The beans are brought down the various streams, and when offered for sale from the junks on the Han River contain all the foreign matter. They are packed in old native bags and are sold in that condition to exporters who clean them in the manner described and re-pack the cargo.

Beans when ready are packed in gunny bags, the usual packing being the so-called "Heavy C" bags weighing 24 pounds, size 40 by 28 inches, manufactured in Calcutta. Each bag when filled weighs 189 pounds gross.

[Articles on the bean markets and production in various parts of China were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 7, Nov. 7, and Nov. 22, 1916.]

PRODUCTION OF SCHEELITE IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 26.]

Scheelite is found in several sections of New Zealand in the neighborhood of the gold mines both in the North and South Island, and has of late been quite extensively mined. The output has increased from 58 long tons, valued at \$20,746, in 1909 to 135 tons, valued at \$64,953, in 1912 and to 194 tons, valued at \$135,211, in 1915.

Since September, 1915, the British Government has requisitioned all supplies of scheelite and other ore containing tungstic acid, and from that date all exports to other markets have been prohibited. The price fixed by the Imperial Government was £2 15s. (\$13.38) per unit (a unit being 1 per cent of tungstic acid in the sample) delivered at London or Liverpool, the scheelite concentrate to contain not less than 65 per cent (65 units tungstic acid).

It was reported in the latter part of 1915 that a large body of scheelite was located in the eastern part of the North Island in the Hawke's Bay district.

SALE OF JEWELRY IN SAN BLAS DISTRICT REGULATED.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Panama, Nov. 11.]

The San Blas Indians having complained that certain people have in the past sold them false jewelry, a recently promulgated presidential decree stipulated that in order to manufacture and sell jewelry in the San Blas district (1) a yearly permit (for which a charge of \$60 is made) must be obtained from the magistrate thereof, and (2) that every manufacturer must adopt and register a special mark (which can not be changed), and jewelry without such mark may not be sold. Violations of this decree entail penalties that include fines, confiscation of goods, and suspension of permit—the last-named for the manufacture of gold and silver jewelry less than 18 carats and 0.900 fine.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Rucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana....	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dumdee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Fauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark...	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon....	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

CARD INDEXES OF AMERICAN EXPORTERS' ADDRESSES.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Bilbao, Spain, Nov. 5.]

Sets of card indexes giving the names, addresses, and cable addresses of the American firms that have shown an interest in export business to Spain are being compiled in the Bilbao consulate for distribution to the several chambers of commerce within its jurisdiction, as a means of ready reference for those members who desire to communicate with the United States. The indexes are arranged by products.

It is suggested that if any like bodies in the United States wish to furnish Spanish chambers of commerce with card indexes of their membership, indexed under products, this consulate will take pleasure in making the necessary translations thereon and forwarding them to their several destinations. Six sets will be necessary for the principal cities of the Bilbao district.

SWISS CHEMICAL CATALOGUES AVAILABLE.

As supplementing, in a measure, his review of the Swiss chemical industry published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for November 13, 1916, Consul Walter H. Schulz has forwarded several catalogues and leaflets devoted to the chemical, drug, and pharmaceutical trade of the Berne consular district. These may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 82079.

AMERICAN SHOE FACTORY IN EASTERN GREECE.

[Vice Consul George P. Waller, jr., Athens, Oct. 20.]

Since the days when sandals were worn the production of foot covering in Greece has been in the hands of small cobblers. No village is too small to have its local bootmaker, and except in the largest cities imported machine-made shoes are never seen. Under this system, while the average shoe worn by the lower class is cheap and durable, footgear for use among the middle and upper classes is made to order and is expensive.

To profit by these conditions as well as to build up a market for certain kinds of leather in the production of which it is interested a company has been formed in Athens for the building and operation of a shoe factory, in which boots, shoes, slippers, etc., will be made by machinery in large quantities on American lasts.

According to the American installer of machinery for this factory, if no unforeseen obstacles develop the factory will be in operation in a few weeks, and by the 1st of December should be producing from 300 to 400 pairs of shoes per day. All the machinery of the factory has been brought from the United States. American lasts and certain kinds of American leather will be employed exclusively, and it is thought that owing to the pronounced inclination of many Greeks for American goods the factory's chances for success are excellent.

REBUILT TYPEWRITERS FOR SOUTH AMERICA.

The manager of a Chicago firm which deals in rebuilt typewriters informs the District Office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in that city that it recently secured an order from Peru for rebuilt typewriters, valued at more than \$3,000. This order, the manager states, was secured as a result of a cable report received by the Bureau from the Commercial Attaché of the Department of Commerce in Lima. The firm adds that several of its best customers were secured through names furnished by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

LOCATION OF AMERICAN CONSULATE IN FORMOSA.

Consul Edwin L. Neville requests that attention be called to the fact that the present address of the only American consulate in Taiwan (Formosa) is "Taihoku" and not "Tansui." He states that considerable mail continues to arrive directed to Tansui, and that such practice not only results in delay in the delivery of letters, but also causes much annoyance to the Formosan postal authorities.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Asbestos	23136	Machinery	23142
Baby carriages	23133	Nails	23137
Boiler tube cleaners	23139	Paints and varnishes	23144
Bookbinders' supplies	23134	Paper	23144
Bottles	23144	Sand paper	23139
Buttons	23141	Saws	23139
Chains	23137	Shovels	23139
Cutlery	23133, 23137	Tractors	23138
Hardware	23137	Travelers' requisites	23133
Insulating materials	23143	Twine, cotton	23135
Leather goods	23133	Woods	23140

23133.*—A man in France wishes to secure the agency, on a commission basis, for American manufacturers of leather goods, travelers' requisites, cutlery, baby carriages, and other articles usually carried by department stores. Correspondence preferably in French. Reference.

23134.†—An export house on the Pacific coast of the United States has an inquiry from Russia for bookbinders' supplies of all kinds. Reference.

23135.*—A manufacturers' agent in Canada desires quotations on one carload lot of commercial cotton twine, 3 to 10 ply. Samples should be sent. Reference.

23136.*—A firm in Spain desires to represent an American manufacturer and exporter of asbestos (crude, fiber, millboard) and woven fabrics thereof. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23137.*—A merchant in one of the West Indies desires to represent an American house dealing in cheap, light hardware, such as nails, cutlery, cattle chains, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23138.*—A rice farmer in the Far East would like to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of tractors of the so-called caterpillar type, for use on soft ground in rice fields. Correspondence in English.

23139.*—A hardware firm in Central America is in the market for shovels, sandpaper, crosscut saws, pit saws, and boiler tube cleaners, for tubes from 1½ inches to 5 inches in diameter. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23140.*—A company in Switzerland, manufacturing weaver shuttles and other loom parts, is desirous of entering into commercial relations with American exporters of various wood specialties, such as cornel, persimmon, boxwood, and hickory wood, with a view to making purchases in carload lots. Correspondence preferably in French or German. Reference.

23141.*—A firm of agents and importers in the United Kingdom wishes to purchase buttons. Samples and quotations from American manufacturers are desired.

23142.—A firm in Porto Rico wishes to communicate with American firms in a position to supply machinery and equipment for a factory for the manufacture of bags, ropes, and similar products from the so-called maguey fiber.

23143.*—A dealer in Spain is in the market for insulating material for electricity and automobiles, such as china, porcelain and composition insulators, compounds, paints and varnishes, fiber, lava, mica, tape, insulating paper, insulator pins, etc. Correspondence preferably in French. Reference.

23144.‡—A firm in New York City has an inquiry from Greece for beer bottles having porcelain stopper and rubber ring; also for news printing paper, size 37½ by 26 inches, weight 32 pounds per ream of 500 sheets. Samples are desired.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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EXPORTS FROM HUDDERSFIELD TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Nov. 2.]

The value of goods covered by invoices certified at the Huddersfield consulate for the United States during October, 1916, was \$166,687, as against \$93,388 during the same month in 1915, an increase of \$73,299. For the same month of 1914 it was \$273,989. The principal items for October, 1916, were woolens, \$83,669, and worsteds, \$49,327. The woolen and worsted goods invoiced in October, 1914, were valued at \$191,146.

The value of chemicals and dyes invoiced in October, 1914, was \$62,009, as against \$1,037 in the same month in 1916.

PROPOSED RUSSIAN BUREAU OF CREDIT INFORMATION.

[Journal of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, Moscow, September.]

The committee of the congress of representatives of Russian banks for commercial credit is discussing the question of establishing a bureau of information regarding the financial standing of commercial firms, in connection with the council of the congress. Such a bureau is deemed advisable in view of the expected considerable increase in foreign and domestic trade after the war, and in connection with the changes that the war has caused in the financial standing of commercial firms.

JAVANESE EXPORTS OF RUBBER.

Exports of rubber from Java during the first eight months of 1915 and 1916, respectively, were incorrectly stated in COMMERCE REPORTS for November 22. The error occurred in the figures for Hevea, exports of which in the first eight months of 1916 should have been stated as 19,009,000 pounds, as compared with 10,943,000 pounds in the corresponding period of 1915. The total exports from Java should have been 11,153,000 pounds in the first eight months of 1915 and 19,251,500 in the corresponding period of 1916.

FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE FOR NINE MONTHS.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, Nov. 10.]

According to statistics just published by the minister of finance, the total French foreign trade for the first 9 months of 1916, based on the values fixed by the customs commission in 1914, amounted to \$1,910,211,903, of which \$1,424,611,744 were imports and \$485,600,159 exports.

The following table shows the subdivision of the imports and exports according to their various classes for the first three quarters of 1915 and 1916:

Items.	Exports.		Imports.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
Food products.....	\$78,242,200	\$60,171,996	\$346,190,855	\$415,499,649
Industrial materials.....	90,716,176	97,635,033	440,143,834	576,608,399
Manufactures.....	228,545,003	203,251,534	334,491,774	432,512,386
Postal packages.....	23,126,804	24,541,596		
Total.....	420,630,183	485,600,159	1,120,826,463	1,424,611,744

In publishing the above figures, however, the Ministry calls attention to the fact that they do not really represent the actual value of the foreign trade, and that in order to arrive at approximately correct statistics they must be increased by the following percentages: *Imports*.—Food products, 57 per cent; industrial materials, 123; and manufactures, 75; or an average for imports of 89 per cent. *Exports*.—Food products, 66 per cent; industrial materials, 51; manufactures, 47; and postal packages, 47; or an average for exports of 50 per cent.

If the above statistics are corrected according to the estimates of the customs officials it will be seen that the real value of the imports amounted to \$2,692,316,196, while exports reached \$728,400,238, or an excess of imports of \$1,963,915,958, to which must be added large imports for the account of the army, which have not been added to the customs figures.

Share of United States in French Trade.

The following table shows some of the principal imports, not including those for the army, and the amounts from the United States during the first nine months of 1916:

Articles.	Nine months ended Sept. 30, 1916.		Articles.	Nine months ended Sept. 30, 1916.	
	Total.	From United States.		Total.	From United States.
Meats.....	\$61,415,302	\$15,528,008	Iron, steel, and pig iron..	\$53,736,797	\$17,298,142
Cereals and flour.....	139,073,098	70,406,014	Copper.....	45,877,258	40,158,668
Alcohol.....	25,068,770	10,737,941	Yarn.....	66,292,691	1,487,837
Sugar.....	30,464,664	13,256,784	Woolen textiles.....	50,382,457	2,156,126
Horses.....	6,620,607	6,104,578	Cotton textiles.....	37,016,435	2,902,720
Cotton, raw.....	58,429,785	45,351,755	Machinery.....	40,481,943	17,894,731
Oleaginous fruits and seeds.....	42,239,015		Vehicles, including automobiles.....	26,382,907	17,920,629
Coal, coke, and briquets..	73,072,502	6,32,789			

a Metric quintals.

b Number.

c Tons.

The total amounts of some of the principal exports during the nine months, with the amounts sent to the United States, were as follows:

Exports.	Total.	To United States.	Exports.	Total.	To United States.
Silk textiles	\$55,792,247	\$15,508,218	Wines.....	\$15,207,242	\$2,308,280
Cotton textiles	27,228,440	0,980,810	Brandies, liqueurs, etc....	5,318,887	250,128
Leather goods	9,547,710	2,644,486	Seeds for sowing.....	6,214,322	3,618,557
Parisian novelties	15,737,220	1,523,156	Silk, raw	15,089,705	229,670
Chemical products	13,425,273	1,755,528	Feathers, ornamental....	5,430,634	2,490,665
Table fruits	4,864,565	1,942,545			

According to the nine months' statistics, France imported from the United States goods to the value of \$401,818,087, not including goods for the Army, and sent to the United States goods valued at \$65,615,754. These figures should, however, be increased by 89 and 50 per cent, respectively, giving a total trade of \$857,859,815, of which \$759,436,184 were imports from, and \$98,423,631 exports to the United States. The conversions from francs to dollars in all the above statistics have been made at the United States Treasury rate of 19.3 cents to 1 franc.

BUREAU AIDS CITIES IN GUARDING AGAINST ELECTROLYSIS.

The United States Bureau of Standards has been making an electrolysis survey in Omaha, Nebr., at the joint request of the various utility companies and of the city. The bulk of the measurements are being made by the engineers supplied by the utilities, the bureau planning and supervising the work. A report is to be prepared by the bureau for the various utilities and the city. Measurements are being made also in connection with the electrolysis surveys in Altoona, Pa., and Baltimore, Md.

A representative of the bureau is making a series of measurements upon the resistance of ground connections from electric circuits in a number of cities in different parts of the country, including New England, the Middle States, and the Mountain States. As this is an important measure of precaution for electric-light and telephone circuits, it is expected that the information obtained will be of very practical value, and will be incorporated in a publication on the subject shortly to be issued.

FARMER'S INSTITUTES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Nov. 16.]

The total number of farmer's institutes in the Province for the years 1914 and 1915 was 111 and 136, respectively, with a membership of 8,367 and 8,145, as compared with 8,144 for 1913. Considering the large number of persons who have left the Province during the last two years, owing to the war and other reasons, the membership recorded may be considered as very creditable.

The financial condition of institutes has at the same time been strengthened, the total receipts for 1915 being \$66,348, compared with \$46,828 for 1914, and the total expenditures \$57,226 against \$38,926.

MINERAL WEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANDORRA.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Nov. 2.]

The mineral wealth of the Republic of Andorra, in the Barcelona consular district, is said to be entirely unexploited, although iron, lead, and other ores are known to exist there in vast quantities. The question of mining concessions in the Republic is comparatively simple. Under the provisions of a law enacted in 1914 the Council General of Andorra, a body of 24 members, names a representative for exploration and negotiation, who is authorized to transfer the exploitation of the mining interests of the Republic to an operating company. It is stated that it is the object of the Government of Andorra to facilitate in every way the work of such a company, and that taxes and fees would be reduced to a minimum.

A good municipal road runs through the Balira Valley, connecting Andorra, the capital of the Republic, with Seo de Urgel, Puigcerdà, Lérida, Manresa, and surrounding places. When completed the Trans-Pyrenean Railroad through Ripoll-Puigcerdà-Aix will facilitate communication with Andorra, as Puigcerdà is 50 miles from Andorra by the highway. The Balira River, which waters the valley in which the small Republic lies, is a tributary of the Segre; the Segre, in turn, flows into the Ebro, forming a water route that could be utilized. Hydroelectric power for industrial purposes could be obtained from the tributaries of the Balira.

Some specimens of iron ore from Andorra show on analysis between 54 and 79 per cent of iron, and veins yielding hematite, limonite, manganese, and lead have been found, which, it is stated, promise excellent results.

[Lippincott's Gazetteer thus describes Andorra. "A neutral country with the name of a Republic, situated on the south side of the Pyrenees, between the French department of Ariège and the Spanish Province of Lérida, surrounded by high mountains on which the snow lies for six months in the year. Area, 175 square miles. Its climate is cold, but healthful; the soil is unproductive in grain, but there are rich iron mines and valuable forests. Oats and barley are the only crops. The Government, a democracy, is vested in a council of 24 members, elected by the whole population. The executive head is a syndic, elected by the council for life. Andorra is nominally subject to the suzerainty of France and of the bishop of Urgel. The inhabitants, mostly shepherds, speak the Catalan language. Population, about 6,000. The independence of this little state is reputed to date from the time of Charlemagne, about 790. Capital, Andorra."]

INCREASED WAR BONUSES TO TEXTILE WORKERS.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Nov. 2.]

Under a recent decision made by Sir G. W. Askwith, Chief Industrial Commissioner of the Board of Trade, to whom had been referred the differences between the three leading textile manufacturers' associations and the General Union of Textile Workers in this district, about 20,000 textile workers are awarded an increased war bonus amounting to from 15 to 20 per cent on present wages.

Under the new rating all workers receiving not more than 10 shillings per week (\$2.43) will receive 3 shillings (\$0.73) additional; females not included in the previous class will receive an addition of 4s. 6d. (\$1.09) instead of 3 shillings; all male persons earning between 10 shillings (\$2.43) and 20 shillings (\$4.86) an addition of 4s. 6d. (\$1.09); all male persons earning over 20 shillings (\$4.86) an addition of 7 shillings (\$1.70).

RESEARCH WORK ON INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS.

Several important problems have received attention recently at the United States Bureau of Standards in research work conducted in aid of American industrial progress. Among the subjects were electrotyping, stuccos, and plasters, and textile materials.

In the electrotyping work, several tests of importance to the industry have been made. The cause of defective service of certain plates, the nature and cause of an unusual precipitate in copper solutions, and the cause of "soft rules" in copper electrotypes were subjects of inquiry. At a meeting of the International Electrotypers' Association, held in Cleveland, a report of the work of the bureau on several problems was presented. Great interest was manifested, especially in the efforts to replace Austrian ozokerite by the American (Utah) product.

In the investigation of stuccos and plasters, the new test panels, 22 in number, have been completed under most favorable conditions. These new panels, which represent a variety of stucco mixtures and backings and include several different types of construction, already have attracted considerable attention. The report on this investigation of stucco panels has been prepared for distribution. The investigation is of interest and importance in connection with all construction work involving the use of plaster or stucco, as it is a service test conducted with the fullest cooperation between the manufacturers and the bureau.

Research by the textile laboratory has included the design of a precision testing machine for textiles. An investigation also has been started for the determination of fabrics most desirable for use in the construction of aeroplane wings. Exposure tests of bunting have been continued.

CANADIAN TRADE STATISTICS.

[Consul Henry S. Culver, St. John, New Brunswick, Nov. 20.]

During the 12 months ended August the imports of dutiable goods into Canada totaled \$365,979,000, and the duty collected was \$125,522,000. These imports included foodstuffs, valued at \$73,754,000, made up principally of provisions, \$17,000,000; fruits, \$10,000,000; and sugar and molasses, \$29,000,000.

The exports of provisions, principally to Great Britain, amounted to \$76,425,000, as compared to \$52,650,000 for the previous year. The exports of cheese increased from \$21,000,000 to \$29,000,000; meats, from \$18,000,000 to \$32,000,000; butter, from \$631,000 to \$2,168,000; animals, from \$14,000,000 to \$16,000,000; and breadstuffs, wheat, and flour, from \$116,000,000 to \$360,000,000.

There was an increase of \$36,000,000 in imports from Great Britain and \$208,000,000 in imports from the United States.

Exports to Great Britain increased by \$395,483,000 and those to the United States by \$61,126,000.

Canada bought from Great Britain last year goods to the value of \$111,584,000 and sold \$646,504,000 worth. It bought from the United States during the same period goods valued at \$492,483,000 and sold to the United States \$247,984,000 worth.

Its trade balance with Great Britain was \$534,920,000, while with the United States the adverse balance was \$244,499,000.

RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION IN ECUADOR.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Nov. 6.]

Esmeraldas to Quito.

The Congress of Ecuador has recently passed a law providing for the construction of a railway from the port of San Lorenzo del Pailon, or some other suitable port in the Province of Esmeraldas, to the city of Ibarra. This will not affect the construction of the railway from Quito to Ibarra, which will connect at Ibarra with the railway from the port. The funds required for the construction of the new railway are provided by the assignment to this purpose of a certain proportion of the import and export duties of the Province of Esmeraldas, now used for other public services. On completion of the railroad the funds shall revert to their original purposes. An appropriation is also made for the construction of a branch road from Ibarra to Tulcan on the completion of the road from Quito to Esmeraldas. The Province of Esmeraldas has great natural resources, and its opening to railway traffic will mean important development.

Chone to Quito.

Congress has also authorized the construction of a railroad from the city of Chone to Quito, passing through Santo Domingo de los Colorados. This road will connect Quito with the ports of Manta and Bahia de Caraquez on the central western coast of Ecuador, and a part of the import and export duties collected at these ports will be used for the construction of the road. Additional funds are provided by the assignment of a portion of the taxes now used for other public purposes, and the appropriation of certain sums formerly destined to other construction. For the immediate financing of this work the Government of Ecuador will endeavor to secure loans, to be guaranteed by the revenues mentioned in detail in the laws providing for the construction of both these railroads. Six per cent interest and 1 per cent amortization will be paid on a foreign loan, and as high as 9 per cent interest, with 1 per cent amortization, on an internal loan.

DECREASED EXPORTS FROM BRADFORD TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Nov. 9.]

The declared exports to the United States from the Bradford consular district during October, 1916, declined to \$1,235,997, as compared with \$2,675,124 in the corresponding month of last year. This decline, however, was more than accounted for by the absence, owing to the embargo, of all shipments of raw fleece wool, which amounted in October, 1915, to \$1,752,038. Wool noils and wastes to the value of \$49,383 were shipped, as compared with \$25,264 in the same periods of last year.

Wool cloths, both worsteds (\$43,005) and woollens (\$74,971), and wool coat linings (\$43,488) continued to show a decline, although wool dress goods, owing to the advance in cost of manufacture, amounted to \$41,536, as compared with \$41,246 in October, 1915; but the square yards of these wool dress goods was only 84,665, as compared with 125,832. Spun silk yarn also showed a decline to \$84,156, as compared with \$104,231, although the quantities were, re-

spectively, 47,863 pounds, as against 88,321 pounds. Mohair yarn, on the other hand, increased to \$56,892, as compared with \$9,500 in October, 1915, the quantities being, respectively, 64,470 and 15,849 pounds, while mohair cloths also increased to \$94,330 (79,324 pounds), as compared with \$64,388 (59,067 pounds) in October, 1915.

The item showing the largest increase was cotton cloths, which amounted to \$559,762 (2,406,397 square yards), as compared with \$230,035 (1,195,890 square yards) in October, 1915. This is the largest monthly total for cotton cloths ever recorded at this office, and the great bulk of these cloths are dyed and mercerized cotton linings, mainly containing yarns numbering 20 to 39, inclusive. A feature of these exports also is the increase in quantity of cotton cloths shipped in the gray to be dyed and finished in the United States.

EXPORT OF SPANISH CANNED GOODS.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 26.]

The canned-goods industry in Spain has grown in importance since the war began, and besides supplying the home market is now filling large orders for foreign countries. Statistics of exports during the first eight months of 1916, compared with the corresponding period of 1915, show an increase of nearly 5,500 tons of food products preserved in tins. The export of sardines in tins increased to 8,584 tons, as against 5,000 tons in 1915. This is regarded as particularly satisfactory, because it is stated to be due chiefly to trans-Atlantic orders being placed directly with Spanish exporters, whereas heretofore the goods were transshipped from other European countries. Aside from canned sardines there is an extensive export business done in salt, smoked, and pickled sardines, of which 3,330 tons were shipped abroad in the first eight months of 1916. The sardine industry of Spain, besides supplying the domestic demand, has enriched Spanish packers and others by \$320,000 a month thus far during the current year.

Preserved shellfish and fish other than sardines have continued to be shipped in greater quantities. During the past eight months the export amounted to 4,598 tons, compared with 2,830 tons during the corresponding period in 1915.

Shipments of Canned Vegetables, Fruit, and Meat.

A marked increase is noticeable in the export of canned garden vegetables. During the present year the demand has continued to grow, statistics for the first eight months showing that 7,009 tons have been shipped abroad, compared with 5,631 tons during the corresponding period of last year.

The export of preserved fruits and canned meats has decreased during the first eight months of 1916 compared with 1915. Of preserved fruits, over 3,000 tons were exported in 1915, 2,000 tons of which were shipped during the first eight months, while during the corresponding period of 1916 only 969 tons were exported. This decrease is attributed partly to the small fruit crop of this year caused by the heat and lack of rain. Canned meats exported during the first eight months of 1916 fell to 22 tons, compared with 200 tons in 1915, the decrease being ascribed to export restrictions in this line.

GUATEMALAN IMITATIONS OF FOREIGN GOODS.

[Consul Walter F. Boyle, Puerto Cortes, Honduras, Nov. 6.]

Of considerable interest is the recent appearance on the Honduran market of toilet waters, patent medicines, and condiments manufactured in Guatemala and put up in imitation of well-known foreign brands, the Guatemalan product following the foreign packing in style and shape of bottle and design of label so closely as to require a very careful examination to ascertain that it is not the genuine article. For example, a well-known British table sauce is commonly referred to in Central America as English sauce ("Salsa Inglesa"). A Guatemalan sauce is put up in close imitation of the genuine article and sold as "Salsa Inglesa." Another example is that of a patent medicine sold throughout Central America as a certain brand of fruit salts. The Guatemalan imitation uses the term "fruit salts," with the name of the brand omitted.

All these goods cost more in Guatemala than do the corresponding products in Europe or America, but the delivered price in Honduras is much less, owing to the fact that goods the product of the factories of Guatemala enter Honduras without paying duties of any kind except a nominal sum for handling through the customhouse, while American and European goods are subjected to very high customs duties and other taxes incidental to the ordinary tariff.

How the Prices Compare—Imitations Give Satisfaction.

The following prices taken from the books of a local business house show the gross cost of the Guatemalan product and of the like articles from American and European sources prior to the European war:

Articles.	Price per dozen.		Articles.	Price per dozen.	
	Guatemalan article.	European or American article.		Guatemalan article.	European or American article.
Florida water:	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	Angostura Bitters, pint bottles.....	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
8-oz. bottles	9.87	12.75	Fruit salts, weight not known.	13.50	24.00
2-oz. bottles	2.48	4.42	Table sauce, weight not known.	21.75	27.50
Kananga water:			Bay rum, 24-oz. bottles.....	9.25	11.75
8-oz. bottles	9.87	12.75		19.50	35.00
2-oz. bottles	2.48	3.44			

The values above are taken directly in the money expressed, the Central American peso, which at present is worth 43 cents, but which fluctuates in value from day to day. The figures are those for the first shipment of this kind to Puerto Cortes, and the importer informs me that he considers the goods sufficiently up to the standards they imitate. He has found no difficulty in disposing of them to his regular trade at prices slightly below those ordinarily charged for the American or European product. This dealer also informs me that he has placed orders in Guatemala for various kinds of canned fruits and vegetables, preserved fruits, jams, pickles, and marmalades, all to be put up in imitation of well-known foreign brands of goods, and at prices, laid down in Puerto Cortes, much below the prices now paid for such goods manufactured in Europe and America.

ARGENTINA'S UNPRECEDENTED WOOL SITUATION.

[Vice Consul J. W. White, jr., Buenos Aires, Oct. 17.]

The opening of the wool year on October 1 found Argentina in a position to ask unheard-of prices, and two weeks of trading in the new season seem to have justified July and August prophecies that quotations would be higher than the abnormally high ones of last year and that, indeed, price would not be a factor in disposing of this year's clip. Argentine producers benefited by the action of the British Government in prohibiting the sale of last year's clip of the United Kingdom and later requisitioning it at a price which gave the farmer a good profit. The unusually brilliant outlook for the current season in this country is dependent largely on a continuance of this policy, which leaves Argentina to supply the demands of neutral countries in addition to filling orders from the Allies for varieties which the British colonies do not produce.

The Argentine Republic annually produces in the neighborhood of 300,000,000 pounds of wool, 75 per cent of which comes from white-faced, long-wool sheep, Lincolns and Leicesters, and is known in the world markets as Argentine crossbred. When sorted, this wool grades largely into coarse and medium crossbred, corresponding to domestic commons and domestic one-fourth bloods in the United States. The fine crossbred of Argentina is known in the United States as domestic three-eighths blood. Merino fleeces form 20 per cent of the yearly total, producing wool that is graded as domestic fine in the United States. The remaining 5 per cent is wool of black-faced and domestic sheep. The average weight of the fleece is 5.3 pounds.

Distribution Before the War.

During the four years 1911 to 1914, France and Germany were the principal buyers of Argentine wool, as shown by the following table in which the quantities are stated in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds:

Destinations.	1911	1912	1913	1914	Total.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
France.....	51,501	51,138	31,342	23,794	157,775
Germany.....	31,693	47,839	41,362	30,386	151,280
United Kingdom.....	19,807	24,744	21,780	26,894	93,225
Belgium.....	13,205	14,846	10,580	17,100	55,731
United States.....	7,923	16,496	9,314	8,788	42,521
Italy.....	2,355	3,299	2,360	6,835	14,849
Various.....	5,572	6,602	3,342	3,473	18,989
Total.....	132,056	164,964	120,050	117,270	534,370

In the calendar year 1915 Argentina's wool shipments amounted to 117,670 metric tons, but the destination of these cargoes is not given in the official statistics now available.

United States Now the Best Customer.

Early in 1914 heavy buying by German houses gave Germany first place and German buyers became so strong a factor in the Argentine market that their actions had great influence on the movement of prices. Owing to the prevailing conditions in Europe, the United States has now become the principal purchaser. Of 298,939 bales exported in the wool year ending September 30, 1916, the United States took 152,330 bales, as compared with 102,429 bales in the 1914-15

season when the total export was 303,402 bales. In the season of 1913-14 the United States took only 34,000 bales out of a total export of 304,268 bales. (The export bale averages 420 kilos, or 925 pounds.) This heavy demand by the United States, with a like increase in the demand of other neutral countries, immediately boomed prices and they are rising still.

The rapid advance in value of Argentine wool is shown by the fact that while the 117,270 metric tons exported in the calendar year 1914 were valued at \$45,323,790 United States gold, the 117,670 tons exported in 1915 were valued at \$53,633,735. The exports in 1913 amounted to 120,080 metric tons and were invoiced at only \$43,685,565 United States gold. Statistics of the Department of Agriculture show that the average price for a pound of wool, all grades considered, was 15.4 cents United States gold in 1912, 16.5 cents in 1913, 17.5 cents in 1914, and 20.1 cents in 1915.

Bright Prospects for This Season.

The prospects for this season are excellent and there is little doubt that the prices will be higher than last season, which was a record one in the matter of quotations. Pastures throughout the Republic are in excellent condition as a result of recent copious rains, and the wool has grown well and is of good quality and strong, without excessive dirt, as had been feared because of the long drought. The stock has multiplied at a good rate. Early estimates of the clip are that it will at least equal that of last season.

The distribution of the new clip probably will be more or less the same as in the season just closed. The first place will be occupied by the United States, and the belief in the local market is that the demand of North American buyers will be even greater than last season. The distribution of exports for the seasons of 1914-15 and 1915-16 is shown by the following table, which was prepared at the Central Market:

Destination.	1914-15	1915-16	Destination.	1914-15	1915-16
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>		<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Dunkirk.....	100	1	Marseille.....	12,474	6,903
Genoa.....	47,539	41,491	Barcelona.....	8,160	7,002
United Kingdom.....	76,976	31,894	Amsterdam and Rotterdam..	9,639	11,097
United States.....	102,429	152,330	Other.....	11,018	21,305
Bordeaux.....	33,265	14,815			
Havre.....	1,793	11,501	Total.....	303,402	298,930

The item "other" in the above table consists largely of shipments to the Scandinavian countries. Although the exportations for the season were slightly under those of the previous one, the production was about the same.

Speculation a Feature of Early Buying.

Speculators opened the country buying campaign for unshorn wool earlier than usual, but foreign buyers did not enter it until late, and it was not until mid-September that the competition reached the importance that it should, in view of the favorable outlook for textiles in centers of consumption. Various factors operated against keen competition earlier, the principal one being the high values of wool in general, which naturally made purchasers cautious of buying in excess of their immediate requirements, as several months must elapse before they could use the raw material. When buying finally,

commenced it found the buyers all trying to fill their orders at the same time. Then followed two weeks of wildly excited trading, in which unheard-of prices were offered for wool on the back. It is estimated that 5,500,000 pounds had been sold on the back up to September 9.

The last week of August saw the purchase of 80,000 kilos of high-grade wool by a German house at the rate of 17 paper pesos for 10 kilos, this being equivalent to 176,370 pounds at 32.7 cents gold a pound. By the second week of October the general price had risen to 19 and 20 pesos, and in that week 12,000 kilos of wool of the same grade as that just mentioned was sold at Azul, in the Province of Buenos Aires, for 21 pesos, or 40.4 cents a pound. This price included lambs' wool, shorts, belly wool, and sweepings. The question of price, even considering that there is a limit to everything, appears to be a factor that will rank second with other questions in influencing sales. At the prices already attained and the competition shown, it is difficult to predict probable values for the next few months.

On the other hand, trading in the Central Market has been almost at a standstill for three months, because of the defective quality of the varieties on the floor. The demand for all wools of good grade and yield, light in color, and free of seed remained strong during August and September, with buyers unable to fill their orders. This pre-season demand has had great influence on early prices; and even though the outlook for the clip is excellent, there seems no likelihood that it will come near enough to meeting the demand at any time in the season to bring quotations to a level much below that of to-day.

Prices—Low-Quality Fiber.

The past week has witnessed a partial recovery in business on the Central Market owing to the arrival of several lots of good and high-grade wools. In this trading, medium and coarse crossbred of good quality and yield has brought 18.5 and 19.5 paper pesos for 10-kilo lots, this being equivalent to 35.6 cents, and 37.5 cents United States gold a pound. Medium and coarse crossbreds, slightly seedy, have sold at 17 pesos (32.7 cents a pound); good class coarse wools of rather dark and heavy quality, 16.5 pesos (31.8 cents a pound); thin, dark, and earth-stained varieties, 14 to 15.5 pesos (27 to 29.8 cents a pound); and coarse, heavy, dark, seedy, 14.5 pesos (27.9 cents a pound).

The demand for inferior wools was filled long before the season closed, leaving 1,900,000 pounds on the floor. Buyers seeking good and high grade wools had gone over this stock so often that there was nothing left except dark, heavy, seedy fleeces. This is an exceptionally large quantity to remain unsold at the end of the season, and the difficulty of disposing of it is explained by the fact that in previous years the only buyers who were interested in these inferior wools were those from northern France, Belgium, and Germany. With this large amount to be disposed of in the new season inferior wools should be sold at low prices.

It is evident that the buyers who are operating in the country districts are getting all the good wool; for although the entries in the Central Market this week averaged 150,000 kilos daily, they consisted almost entirely of defective wools. The continuance of ac-

tivity in the country for the purchase of wools of the better grades leads to the general belief that the wools in the Central Market this year will be of poorer grades than formerly.

Buying Through Commission Houses.

Most of the wool sold to the United States is exported by commission houses acting on cabled orders from American firms. During the clipping season the fleeces are bought at the ranches by men who bring the wool to the Buenos Aires Central Market, the largest selling floor in the world. It is at the Central Market that most of the commission houses and foreign buyers operate.

The commission agent goes through the stocks on hand and takes such lots as contain the grades for which he has orders. The purchases are then sorted and baled and shipped to the houses which have ordered these particular grades. The foreign buyer who must pick out one or two special varieties for shipment to the house he represents has a more difficult task on hand, as up to the present dealers have paid little attention to sorting their wools. However, it is likely that the wools on the market this year will be better selected and sorted than in the past, as brokers have been educating growers along these lines and pointing to the wide difference in prices noted last year between clean and defective wools.

It would appear that those American importers who do not buy through local commission houses could have saved a good deal of money in the last two years by sending their buyers to Buenos Aires two months earlier than they did and instructing them to buy unshorn wool. American buyers have been arriving in early October and confining themselves to operating in the Central Market, dealing with speculators who bought the wool on the back at a price much below that at which it was offered on the selling floor. This season finds many of the export houses which formerly were interested only in clipped wools buying unshorn fleeces.

NEW FUELS TRIED IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 26.]

The fuel question has become of such importance of late in Spain that practical experiments are being made by which various materials hitherto considered of small value may be employed to a certain extent as a substitute for coal.

For many years in the rice-raising provinces of Spain rice husks have been utilized as fuel for heating boilers in the rice mills, but this practice does not completely exhaust the combustible matter of the husk. The plan is now being tried of forming the husks into briquets by mixing with tar and submitting to hydraulic pressure. The husks at present are sold in sacks of about 44 pounds, costing from 1 cent to 4 cents a sack, according to season. As even large quantities yield comparatively little heat, their use in natural form is expensive.

Another briquet is now being made from inferior qualities of lignite. Even lignite dust and waste which were formerly discarded as useless and an encumbrance are treated to expel latent volatile matter and then petroleum residues or similar binding material are added. These briquets are said to possess the advantage of igniting readily and burning with little smoke.

AUSTRALIAN WEIGHTS-AND-MEASURES REGULATIONS.

[Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne.]

Australia has no Bureau of Standards nor any Federal laws relating to weights and measures. This is explained by the fact that British standards are generally followed. However, the various States of the Commonwealth have acts specifying the law relating to weights and measures. Standards, which are placed in charge of a minister, conform to the weights and measures preserved in the Exchequer in London. These standards are used only for verifying weights and measures in the hands of inspectors.

The matter of inspection is left to the municipal councils, which have power to appoint inspectors. The Government railways, post offices, and customs are not responsible to any local inspectors. These departments maintain their own inspectors. Wholesalers dealing in scales sometimes have them tested before they are sold and sometimes afterward. Scales sold in Melbourne for upcountry delivery may be inspected in Melbourne before being sent out, and usually are, but this is optional.

Fees for the inspection of scales in the various municipalities are fairly uniform, those charged in Melbourne (which are representative) being: Up to 56 pounds, 12 cents; 56 to 112 pounds, 18 cents; 112 pounds up to one-half ton, 18 cents per 100 pounds; over one-half ton, the charge for one-half ton plus 12 cents extra for each additional 100 pounds.

REGISTRATION OF ORCHARDS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winalow, Auckland, Oct. 27.]

At the last session of Parliament the orchards and garden diseases act under the Department of Agriculture was enacted, which authorized the Department of Agriculture to require every person owning or occupying a lot or farm on which there was even a single fruit tree growing to register the same on or before October 26, 1916.

This was the outgrowth of a request on the part of the nurserymen and the large fruit growers requesting the Government to impose a tax of 1/- (24 cents) per acre on all orchards containing 1 acre or more, with the idea of using the income to assist in developing the industry in general in this Dominion.

The regulation requires all persons having at least one fruit tree on their property to register and permit inspection of the same, with the idea of having such trees destroyed providing they do not pass inspection, but there is no charge for registration in the case of orchards covering less than 1 acre.

All of this is considered important by the principal fruit growers of the country, since it is expected that this may help to eradicate the diseases now more or less prevalent that might seriously affect this important industry that is increasing so rapidly of late.

SWISS WATCH PRICES INCREASED.

Consul Walter H. Schulz reports from Berne, Switzerland, under date of October 31, that the Swiss syndicate of watch manufacturers announces 15 to 20 per cent increase in the prices of silver watches and 20 to 25 per cent in the price of base-metal watches.

JAPAN'S INCREASED OUTPUT OF POTASSIUM CHLORATE.

[Vice Consul M. D. Kirjasoff, Yokohama, Oct. 20.]

The consumption of chlorate of potash in Japan before the war usually amounted to about 4,000 tons a year, and the demand was met chiefly by imports from Germany and other European countries. The outbreak of hostilities suddenly reduced imports, and prices went to more than five times the prewar quotations. They have somewhat declined recently. The increased value of chlorate of potash has stimulated the domestic manufacture of the chemical. "Before the war," says the Japan Chronicle, "the only producer in this country was the Nihon Kagaku Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, which then turned out not more than 300 tons a year." Many producers are now in the field, and, according to an official investigation quoted by the Jiji of Osaka the total output now exceeds 3,500 tons. The domestic production is more than sufficient to satisfy the home demand and recently has resulted in a growing export trade to Russia, China, and the South Seas.

Several Firms Given Permission to Export Product.

During August and September of this year permission was granted by the Government to the following firms to export chlorate of potash: Nihon Kagaku Kogyo, Suzuki Shoten, Takaoka Rika Kagaku Kogyo, Yokohama Kagaku Kogyo Yoshida Kimpei, Konishi Rihichi, Takasago Kogyo, Hiroshima Denka Kogyo, Matsubara Gaku. These firms exported 302,512 pounds in August and 231,756 pounds in September, a total of 534,268 pounds, which is not much less than Japan's total yearly output before the present war began.

In the early stages of the war the Government prohibited exports not only of imported but also of home-made chlorate of potash. The subsequent development in domestic manufacture swept away all fears of a shortage, and when the match trade was at a low mark the supply was in excess of the demand. The Government accordingly revised its policy, and has permitted exports of the home product alone since October of last year. The lifting of the embargo has had an encouraging effect on the trade, and it is expected that there will be a further increase in exports, especially to Russia and China.

[Changes in the supply of chlorate of potash were noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 10 and Sept. 12, 1918.]

Coal-Land Rights in Colombia.

The Colombian Minister of Public Works has rendered a decision on the rights of owners of coal lands, which is published in a recent number of the *Diario Oficial*. According to this decision, coal mines do not come under the provisions of the Mining Code in regard to filing of claims as do mines of gold, silver, and copper. The Government controls the coal in its unoccupied lands, and coal mines on these lands may be worked only by contract with the Government, but the owners of lands containing coal may work their mines independently.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Lktoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby.....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendall, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

French Government to Regulate Price of Butter and Cheese.

Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, of Paris, reports that November 1 the French Government promulgated a law providing that during the period of hostilities and the three months following their cessation butter, cheese, and oil cake (tourteaux) used for food purposes may be subjected to Government price regulation and Government requisition.

New Sanitary Regulations in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan Government has issued new sanitary regulations for the whole Republic. These regulations, which are published in the Gaceta Oficial, include requirements as to cleanliness in bakeries, markets, slaughterhouses, manufacturing establishments, streets, and buildings, as well as standards of purity in liquors and foodstuffs.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Bags, gunny	23153	Machinery, beet sugar	23145
Blankets, cotton	23153	Machinery, bottle-making	23155
Canned fish	23153	Manufactured products	23147
Commission agency	23153	Neckwear	23149
Cordage	23153	Novelties	23150
Electric-light plant	23145	Optical goods	23150
Elevators	23146	Petroleum products	23153
Enameled ware	23153	Photographic supplies	23150
Farming tools	23153	Prints	23150
Fish nets	23154	Provisions	23153
Flour	23147, 23153	Rice	23147, 23153
General merchandise	23147, 23153	Shoe polish and shoe wax	23151
Gift articles	23150	Shoes	23149, 23152
Grain mills	23153	Stationery and supplies	23150
Gramophones	23150	Stearine	23153
Hats	23149	Textiles	23149, 23153
Hosiery	23149	Toys	23150
Jewelry, imitation	23150	Woods	23148

23145.*—Proposals are desired by a man in South Africa for supplying the requisite machinery and equipment for a beet-root sugar mill having a capacity of 50 tons per day. The project includes an electric lighting plant for the mill.

23146.*—The manager of a hotel in France wishes to receive catalogues and prices on three elevators capable of holding five passengers each, with space underneath for baggage. If possible, catalogues forwarded should be confined to firms having branches in France in order that the necessary repairs may be made. Bids should include the complete setting up. Correspondence in English.

23147.†—A commission merchant in Porto Rico would like to represent firms dealing in general merchandise and manufactured products. He is particularly interested in rice and flour. Correspondence in English.

23148.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for large quantities of American red pine, or other similar wood, cut in thicknesses of 1 inch, 1½ inches, 1¾ inches, and 2 inches, in various widths and lengths. Correspondence in German. Reference.

23149.†—A firm in Manila, P. I., desires to enter into commercial relations with manufacturers of hosiery, neckwear, collars, straw and felt hats, leather and rubber shoes for men, women, and children, and general textiles.

23150.*—A firm in Spain is in the market for imitation jewelry, toys, stationery, writing materials, optical goods, gramophones, photographic supplies, novelties, prints, gift articles, etc. Correspondence in Spanish or French. Reference.

23151.‡—An export house on the Pacific Coast of the United States has an inquiry from Russia for shoe wax and shoe polish in tin and glass jars.

23152.*—A firm in Norway is in the market for shoes. Correspondence in English. References. Prices f. o. b. New York.

23153.*—A man in Venezuela desires to secure the agency for provisions and general merchandise of all kinds, including unbleached cotton duck, cotton drills and prints, cotton blankets, checks, and unbleached cloths; second-hand gunny bags, farming tools, enameled-iron kitchen ware, wheat flour, rice, sardines, cheese, canned fish, kerosene and petroleum products, stearine and paraffin, sisal cordage, small grain mills. Connection is also desired with a New York commission firm. Correspondence may be in English.

23154.*—A firm in Spain is in the market for cotton fish nets. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23155.‡—A firm of bottle manufacturers in the United Kingdom asks the Bureau to place it in touch with manufacturers of bottle-making machinery. The firm requires machines capable of making narrow-mouth bottles, such as spirit flasks, medical and varnish-stain bottles from 2 oz. to 20 oz. capacity.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 283 Washington, D. C., Saturday, December 2 1916

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FORECAST OF FRENCH GRAIN CROPS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, dated Nov. 29.]

Minister of Agriculture publishes to-day these estimates of production of cereals in 1916 as compared with 1915: Wheat, 5,841,070 metric tons, against 6,063,020 in 1915; spelt, 111,427 tons, against 109,819; rye, 911,632 tons, against 842,016; barley, 857,940 tons, against 692,079; oats, 4,127,960 tons, against 3,462,598.

BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON PAPER-MAKING MATERIALS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Nov. 30.]

Beginning January 1, imports of materials for paper manufacture will be on same footing as paper, such imports to be reduced by one-half instead of one-third, as at present. Licenses already granted for imports for January and February will be reduced accordingly. Board of Trade will take possession December 1 of mines in South Wales coal field. Operations to be carried on by owners under Government instructions. [A notice regarding the restriction on imports of paper was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 6, 1916.]

FUEL OIL DEPOT AT VALPARAISO HARBOR.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Nov. 8.]

The steamer *Cordelia* on November 6 and 7 delivered 5,000 tons of crude oil to the Union Oil Co.'s tanks in Viña del Mar.

This is the first consignment of fuel oil received at Valparaiso. The oil tanks at Viña del Mar, Valparaiso harbor, which have just been completed, are four in number, the two larger tanks having a capacity of 8,000 tons each, and the two smaller ones 235 tons each.

The Union Oil Co. now has oil depots in Tocopilla, Taltal, Antofagasta, Iquique, and Valparaiso.

STATUS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOX INDUSTRY.

[Consul William A. Pierce, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, Nov. 13.]

A very large number of fox skins are being taken off by the ranchers of the Charlottetown district. This will continue until the end of the killing season in January. The pelt of the Prince Edward Island black fox reaches prime condition for length, luster, and thickness about December 1. Leading fur buyers of New York and London, who have recently visited the island, have spoken highly of the ranch-bred fox pelts. Values up to \$1,500 have been placed on single skins.

Quite a number of this year's pups will be kept and ranched for another breeding season, but most of the ranchers will pelt the equivalent (in number) of this year's production. Approximately \$30,000,000 is invested here in foxes. Few companies or ranches have paid dividends for two years. The market is still much below prices of former years for breeding pairs.

The effort to bring about cooperative collection of pelts, matching, and selling the product of the Province by one organization is progressing [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 6, 1915]. The effort of ranchers to improve the industry is represented by the catch phrase, "Breed, weed, and feed." This means the killing off of the smaller and inferior foxes, the mating for breeding of larger and well-matched foxes and a guarding against too much inbreeding, and changing the policy (much followed heretofore) of underfeeding the young pups.

Figures carefully compiled by authorities give 4,000 pups as the 1916 production for Prince Edward Island.

EXTRACTING OIL FROM FILBERTS.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, Trebizond, Turkey, Oct. 24.]

Although Trebizond has always been considered more important agriculturally than industrially, the stern law of necessity has given rise to a new enterprise which, if carefully developed, may be a factor in the future commercial activity of this region and the beginning of an industrial life here. Soon after the outbreak of the European war kerosene and olive oil advanced in price so rapidly that they proved beyond the reach of a great part of the population. Some of the natives, in looking for a substitute, tried crushing filberts, which the cutting off of export facilities had left on their hands in large quantities. This experiment, confined at first to individual homes, proved successful, and before long several of the leading inhabitants went into the business on a larger scale, taking it from the houses to small factories. The oil was used for cooking and lighting purposes and also in the making of soap.

Although the largest of the factories has unfortunately been destroyed by fire, there are three working at present, and the industry is also still quietly carried on in 20 or 25 private homes. A personal visit to one of the factories was of much interest. The nuts are first shelled and then usually fried or roasted, after which they are

put in a heavy press. The oil is poured in a large vat, boiled slightly, and then forced through a heavy cloth, which acts as a strainer. This completes the process. In the "home" industry the nuts are not roasted, but after being shelled are dipped in hot water and then pressed. The result is that the oil has much less taste of the nuts and is consequently a superior quality, but as the oil is not boiled at all it can not be kept for long periods, especially in the summer. By roasting the nuts before pressing larger quantities of oil can be obtained. The present proportion is 1 pound of oil for 6 pounds of nuts. The residual product is sometimes used as food for animals, but is more often sold to the peasants, who prepare it in various ways.

Prices Advancing—Present Output.

Filbert oil of average quantity originally sold for about 15 cents a pound, but now the price is much higher. As previously reported [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 29, 1916], the total stock of filberts on hand in Trebizond proper is estimated at 6,820,000 pounds. Dealers will sell only in small quantities, as prices are advancing.

The industry is, of course, in an elementary stage, the total weekly capacity being only from 7,200 to 7,500 pounds. In each "shop" there are not more than 15 workmen. Except for the shellers the machinery is quite primitive, most of it having been made by hand here in Trebizond. More up-to-date machinery might be profitably installed after the war if it is seen that the olive-oil competition can be met.

The interesting and significant fact, however, is that the initial efforts have been successful. The people are learning that industrial initiative can have profitable results.

RAISING BEEF CATTLE IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 16.]

Much attention has been given in New Zealand recently to the question of the most profitable beef cattle to raise. An effort has been made to determine the best method of treatment of such stock. The country from 100 miles south of Auckland to the extreme north of the island is especially adapted to the raising and marketing of young beef, since the climate is so very mild. The stock can be crowded from birth without much attention, save providing good pasturage, which is possible the year round.

On January 31, 1916, Auckland Province had 756,240 cattle out of 2,329,292 for the entire Dominion, and Auckland is only one of 10 Provinces. On the date mentioned the North Island had 1,850,387 of the total. This is the result of the favorable climate and the special attention the industry has received.

During the year ended August 31, 1916, fresh beef to the value of \$2,769,808 was exported from Auckland, against \$1,509,394 for the corresponding period of 1915. The future is very promising for the industry in this district.

[Copies of a brochure entitled "Baby Beef," describing conditions in the cattle industry in New Zealand, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 82216.]

PUBLIC WORKS IN ECUADOR.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Oct. 31.]

The Government of Ecuador is making provision for public works in various parts of the country, including electric plants, water-works, bridges, new schoolhouses, etc. The funds that are specified for the new works are in most cases certain revenues heretofore assigned to purposes that are considered of less immediate importance than the present plans. In case funds are not available at once the board or commission in charge of the work is authorized to contract a loan guaranteed by the revenues designated in the law providing for the new work. The following are the improvements recently authorized by the Ecuadorian Congress:

Schools and Electric Plant at Guano.

The municipality of Guano is to install an electric plant in the town of Guano, to construct a bridge and a jail at Penipe, to build a bridge at Puela, to purchase a house for girls' school in the district of El Altar and another in the district of Elen in the town of Guano, and to construct a schoolhouse for boys in the districts of Ilapo and San Isidro. To finance this work the municipality of Guano is authorized to contract a loan of 50,000 sucres (sucre=48.67 cents), which will be guaranteed by the portion of the taxes of Guano heretofore assigned to the water service of the city of Riobamba. The decree providing for these works becomes effective January 1, 1917, and continues in force until the completion of the projects.

Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Guayaquil.

The Junta de Beneficencia Municipal of Guayaquil is authorized to build a national sanitarium for tuberculous patients. The Municipality or the Government will donate a site for the building, the site to be selected by a technical commission. The sanitarium will be of the most modern type, with all the improvements known to medical science. Part of the funds needed for this building is already available, and the remainder is to be raised by a loan for which certain local revenues are offered as security. The exact amount of the loan and the manner of collecting the revenues remain to be determined.

Railway Extension and River Embankment at Machala.

Congress has provided for a public works commission at Machala, to be composed of the Governor of the Province, two delegates from the Municipality of Machala, and two from the city council of Pasaje. This commission will have charge of the extension and repair of the El Oro railway, and also of the construction of works to prevent the overflow of the Jubones River. The work may be done by the commission directly or through contracts made with the lowest bidders. The commission has authority to contract loans for the sum needed to complete the projects, giving as security the customs revenues at Puerto Bolivar formerly collected for the irrigation works of Pasaje and Machala and for the sanitation of Puerto Bolivar, and other duties assigned to the service of El Oro. The collection, as well as the investment of the funds for the new work, is in charge of the commission.

Electric Plant at Azogues.

The Municipality of Azogues will install an electric lighting plant in that city, in accordance with a recent decree of Congress. The funds required for the installation are provided by a special tax on the rum or brandy brought into the district of Azogues, and on that now held there, in addition to a tax on rural distillation. Other revenues, including a small tax on the sale of foreign merchandise, will complete the resources. Upon the installation of the electric plant, the revenues used for this purpose shall be diverted to drainage and paving work in the city of Azogues.

LIMITED MARKET FOR BOOK CLOTH IN RUSSIA.

[Consul Douglas Jenkins, Riga, Oct. 16.]

This consulate learns upon inquiry among the bookbinders in Riga that the demand for book cloth is limited in Russia, as compared with other countries. It appears that there are but two important binderies in Petrograd and only one in Moscow. There are also bookbinderies in some of the larger cities, such as Odessa and Kieff, but more binding and printing appears to be done in Riga than in other Russian cities.

Before the war most of the book cloth in Riga came from Lodz, Poland, but local binders are now getting their supplies from factories in Moscow and Petrograd. A large part of the output of these factories consists of washable cloth, and there is little variety in style or finish. The cloth is put up in rolls about 116 feet in length by from 39 to 40 inches in width.

German Cloth—Prices.

In order to get something new, the Riga bookbinders before the war imported a limited amount of cloth from Germany. The German factories were prepared to fill small orders, selling parts of rolls as well as full rolls.

The Russians customs duty on imported book cloth is high, and this rather discouraged any import from abroad. The duty runs from 97 cents to \$1.68 per pound avoirdupois. It is estimated that the duty on imported book cloth is about 100 per cent of the actual value of the goods. One bookbinder explains that some years ago he imported about 50 rubles' worth of cloth from Germany upon which he paid 68 rubles in customs duty.

The expense of importing is now even greater than in the past, but on the other hand the demand is greater than the local manufacturers can well supply, and prices have advanced considerably. Before the war a roll of binding cloth cost from 15 to 20 rubles (\$7.50 to \$10), while at present manufacturers are asking 50 rubles (\$25 at normal exchange) per roll.

It is believed that while some American book cloth could be sold here, only a limited business could be expected.

After the war it is possible the field may be more encouraging, but in the meantime it may be well to get in touch with some of the bookbinders.

[A list of bookbinders in Riga can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82215.]

INCREASED IMPORTS OF AMERICAN GOODS INTO TASMANIA.

[Consul W. A. Bickers, Hobart, Oct. 7.]

The total imports into Tasmania from foreign countries for the year ended June 30, 1916, were valued at \$4,783,034. The origin of these imports was as follows: United Kingdom, \$2,727,707; British possessions, \$356,087; United States, \$760,833; and other foreign countries, \$938,407.

Although the total value of the imports from the United States was \$113,541 less in the first six months of 1916 than in the corresponding period of 1915, this is explained from the fact that in the first half of 1915, over \$300,000 worth of wheat was imported from the United States, while there has been no importation of grain in 1916, so eliminating this item, the importation of articles, mostly manufactured goods, shows an increase of nearly \$200,000 during the first half of this year in comparison with the corresponding period of last year.

In the few years immediately preceding the outbreak of the war, imports from the United States into Tasmania increased rapidly from about \$250,000 to \$600,000 per annum, which was the record for the year 1913. The year 1914 showed a slight decrease in imports from the United States and there was a slow recovery in imports of manufactured goods on account of the scarcity and high cost of ocean freights, but while freights continue at high levels there has been on the whole less difficulty in procuring space of late than was formerly the case. As deliveries are now becoming nearer to normal there will continue a strong demand for American manufactures, and at present sufficient orders have been placed with American factories to assure a satisfactory trade for the current fiscal year.

Imports and Countries of Origin.

The following table taken from the custom statistics of Tasmania for the quarters ending March 31 and June 30, 1916, indicates the extent and the principal source of the import trade:

Articles.	Quarter ended Mar. 31, 1916.			Quarter ended June 30, 1916.		
	United Kingdom.	British possessions.	United States.	United Kingdom.	British possessions.	United States.
Apparel and soft goods	\$258,246	\$2,861	\$11,485	\$215,211	\$4,064	\$5,631
Boots and shoes	6,891	156	720	5,854	233	58
Cocoa and chocolate	4,063			6,580		
Confectionery	5,494	5	200	5,061		
Cordage and twines	7,893		15	3,475		117
Drugs and chemicals	10,093	10	394	7,494	29	165
Earthenware	6,643		19	7,713		1,796
Hats and caps	8,015	5	229	5,830	10	287
Implements and machinery	26,279	3,465	23,301	15,621	5,304	18,692
Musical instruments	6,516		2,039	6,526		141
Iron and steel	24,138		1,163	17,510		3,282
Jute bags, etc.		31,296		642	5,012	5
Metal manufactures	33,000	58	19,724	34,668	117	6,633
Oils	2,750		50,998	3,553	5	190
Paints, color	6,920		2,375	9,387		7,210
Paper	9,733	5,577	560	3,961	263	686
Rubber goods	2,107	4,433	3,363	2,725	3,100	15,067
Spirits	15,855	2,813	19	15,135	1,285	28
Tobacco manufactures	579	516	4,287	477	842	9,334
Vehicles	10,147	24,289	20,746	14,611	15,648	50,697
Other articles	142,705	26,512	97,540	304,118	37,111	31,846
Total	588,097	101,926	239,164	685,587	73,118	141,897

In addition to the imports from the countries given in the above table there is a large import of various articles from foreign countries, forming about 20 per cent of the total imports. Scandinavia furnishes paper, fish, machinery, lumber, etc.; France has a large market here for brandies and wines; while various countries in Europe and the East Indies find fair demand for their typical products.

CHINESE LANGUAGE AS A COMMERCIAL ASSET.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China, Oct. 16.]

For a long time business men have considered it important when exploiting a market to have some knowledge of the language in any part of the world except China. The Chinese language has been considered as unnecessary for merchants and too difficult for the average occidental to acquire. Of late this impression has been somewhat shaken, and many persons most capable of deciding have concluded that though business methods of China were peculiarly Chinese some knowledge of the language was very desirable. Such a conclusion would have long since been accepted as fact in any other part of the world except China.

The British Chamber of Commerce has been considering for some time the formation of a class to study Chinese, and on October 2, 1916, it became a reality. By arrangement, Mr. Archibald Rose, of the British Consular Service, addressed the 40 pupils, giving them practical advice derived from his interest in a similar class in Shanghai. For the present the class will be under the direction of Mr. J. Archibald, of the Central China Post, who is an excellent Chinese linguist. The course is to cover three years and is open to students of the British, allied, and neutral nations at a monthly fee of \$7.70 gold. To make the best progress it will be necessary to have a tutor at about \$7.50 gold per month. The classes are to meet three evenings a week.

The large class is evidence of the opinion of the mercantile world of the necessity of such training. While all students pay their own tuition, it is said some of the firms have offered their staff inducements for joining by promising bonuses sufficient to cover the outlays as each year's study is satisfactorily completed. This is only extending the assistance they should to increase the efficiency of the student. American firms, in my opinion, would do well to encourage their American staff to take up the language by extending inducements in some form, so that they will not be at a financial loss when their efficiency is increased. In the case of small-salaried employees the inducement should take the form of loan, to be canceled upon evidence of satisfactory improvement, while others could be offered a bonus upon similar evidence.

[The action of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce looking toward the establishment of a school where the Chinese language would be taught was reported on in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 3 and Aug. 10, 1916.]

The final corrections of the National Electrical Safety Code have been made by the United States Bureau of Standards. The code will be issued for use by those who may be interested, it is announced by the bureau.

EMPLOYEES OF LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE COMMENDED.

Several employees of the United States Bureau of Lighthouses have been commended during the past month for services rendered under circumstances which required the display of courage in the saving of lives or property. Among the incidents that called for special mention was one in which a keeper and assistant keeper of a Porto Rican light station maintained the effectiveness of their aid to navigation under difficulties created by a hurricane. Others related to assistance to motor boats in peril, rescues from drowning, and the fighting of fire. The persons commended were:

Julio L. Rengel, keeper, and Vicente Garcia, assistant keeper, of Culebrita Island Light Station, P. R., for the energetic manner in which they worked during the prevalence of a hurricane which passed over the island of Culebrita October 9 and 10, 1916, to keep the light burning. The keeper and the assistant keeper filled the gap in the lantern left by the broken glass with planks and blankets and replaced the broken glass during the day so as to avoid any interruption to the service of the light.

James McCormick, keeper, William F. Green, first assistant keeper, and Ray H. Buttars, third assistant keeper, of South Fox Island Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered to a motor boat with three men aboard, which went ashore on South Fox Island.

Fred Warner, keeper of Birch Point Range Light Station, Mich., for assistance rendered to two men in a motor boat by getting a line to the boat and towing it to a safe anchorage.

Theodore Poole, laborer at Lovells Island Lighthouse Depot, Mass., for rescuing from drowning the son of the keeper of that depot on November 2, 1916. Rufus A. Brooks, master of tender *Jessamine*, the second officer, Norman C. Manyon, and four seamen of that tender, and William M. Midgett, assistant keeper of Love Point Light Station, Md., for assistance rendered in rescuing from drowning a man in the vicinity of Love Point Light Station.

Bert A. Dissett, first assistant keeper of Toledo Harbor Light Station, Ohio, for assistance rendered a party in a disabled launch.

Andrew Shaw, jr., keeper of Presque Isle Light Station, Pa., for assistance rendered in preventing the spread of a fire which was burning in the vicinity of the light station.

The Acting Secretary of Commerce commended C. C. Tyler, keeper of Great Shoals Light Station, Md., for assistance rendered to three persons in a disabled launch.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

[Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall, Nov. 1.]

Many persons have emigrated from various countries to Switzerland in recent years. In 1850, with a population of 2,392,740, the number of foreigners was but 71,507, about 3 per cent. The proportion had increased by 1900 to 11.5 per cent, and at present it is more than 15 per cent. The number of foreigners in Switzerland is now about 600,000. Their distribution through the country, however, is very irregular. The smallest number is in Appenzell Inner-Rhoden (3 per cent); the largest number in the boundary Cantons, Geneva with 41 per cent, and Basel-Stadt with 38 per cent. Foreigners in the Canton Tessin represent 29 per cent, mostly Italians, and those in the Canton Zurich 20 per cent. One-third of the entire population of the city of Zurich is foreign.

The foreign population of Germany is but 1.7 per cent of the total number; that of Italy only 2 per cent; of Belgium, 3.1 per cent;

and of France less than 3 per cent. In comparison with these countries, Switzerland has an abnormally large number of alien origin.

Many Foreigners of an Earning Age.

The economic importance of this condition is in the fact that the percentage of those of an earning age among the foreigners is greater than that of the Swiss; of 1,000 individuals there were, according to the census of 1900, 393 foreigners between 20 and 39 years and only 285 Swiss. The foreigners also have a lower mortality and a greater number of births, because they usually come to Switzerland at the strongest age. According to the statistics of employment collected in 1905 the percentage of foreigners employed in industrial undertakings was not less than 24.6 per cent. It is, therefore, chiefly the opportunity for industrial employment that attracts so many foreigners.

The question of the usefulness and feasibility of compulsory naturalization has been discussed in Switzerland for some years. It has been pointed out that more than a third of the foreign citizens and subjects in Switzerland have grown up in this country.

Proportions of Various Nationalities.

Germans are most numerous of the foreign residents, with 220,000, or 39.8 per cent. The Italians follow, with 203,000, or 36.7 per cent; the French number 64,000, or 11.5 per cent; and the Austrians, 39,000, or 7.1 per cent.

The number of Swiss emigrants is much smaller than that of foreign immigrants. This depends naturally upon economic conditions, but has varied little in the past 10 years. The number in 1903 was 5,817, and in 1912 it was 5,871. The destination of most of these emigrants—about four-fifths—is the United States (1902, 5286; 1912, 4,195), and during the last few years Brazil and Argentina have received considerable numbers.

IMPROVED DYEING MACHINES PRODUCED IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Leeds, Nov. 14.]

The attention of the Leeds consulate has been called to an improvement in apparatus for dyeing, washing, etc., which was patented recently. The machine is reported to have been introduced successfully into a large number of the woollen mills in the district.

Some of the advantages claimed are that no labor is required except to enter material and lift when dyed; that it is suitable for all qualities of material—fine, medium, or coarse; that it will dye rags, wool, or shoddy; that a finer skein from equal material is produced; that no stanging is required, and the material is completely inclosed; that the machines may be fixed to dye from 800 to 1,600 pounds of material, according to the size of the mill's vat; that the material can be chromed and filled up without removing from the bath; that existing apparatus can be converted or new machines supplied; that 50 per cent less water and steam are required, and that the machine is suitable for cotton rags as well as woollen rags.

WORKINGS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FARM-LOAN ACT.

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Nov. 17.]

Many applications have already been filed with the Agricultural Credit Commission by the farmers of British Columbia for loans to make improvements to their farms, such as clearing, draining, the erection of buildings, and the purchase of stock—all calculated to increase the agricultural production.

The agricultural act was placed upon the statutes of British Columbia in March, 1915. It authorized the borrowing of \$15,000,000 to be administered by a commission, the debentures of the said commission to be guaranteed by the government of the Province. A loan of \$1,000,000 was obtained under the act and cost 5.63 per cent and is being loaned to the farmers at 6.5 per cent.

Long-term loans for 20, 30, and 36½ years may be made on the amortization plan, interest and principal payable half-yearly. Short-term loans may be made from 3 to 10 years, which need not be amortizable.

Preference in Granting Loans.

A great many applications are being received where the money is wanted for paying off existing mortgages. The policy of the commission, with the limited amount of money at its disposal, is to give first consideration to applications where the money is to be used for purposes that will tend definitely to increase agricultural production: therefore the applications for money to be used exclusively to pay off mortgages are being held in abeyance for the time being.

The system is yet new in British Columbia, consequently statistical information is limited. The following figures, however, may be of interest:

Items.	Number.	Average amount.	Total amount.
Applications for loans received to date.....	1,400	\$1,554	\$2,175,455
Applications appraised to date.....	464	2,324	1,078,005
Loans granted.....	144	1,628	234,430
Applications withdrawn.....	7	2,369	16,575
Applications refused.....	142	2,425	344,405
Applications held over for further consideration.....	121	3,078	372,450

Terms of Loans—Repayments and Fees.

Of the 144 loans granted 5 were for \$250, 2 for \$300, 21 for \$500, 2 for \$600, 3 for \$750, 2 for \$800, 2 for \$850, 26 for \$1,000, 4 for \$1,200, 12 for \$1,250, 1 for \$1,300, 16 for \$1,500, 4 for \$1,800, 16 for \$2,000, 1 for \$2,280, 8 for \$2,500, 4 for \$3,000, 2 for \$3,500, 4 for \$4,000, 1 for \$4,250, 6 for \$5,000, 1 for \$5,500, and 1 for \$8,000. By length of time these loans are distributed thus: Straight loans—3-year, 3; 5-year, 28; amortizable loans—7-year, 1; 8-year, 3; 9-year, 1; 10-year, 42; 20-year, 32; 30-year, 14; 36½-year, 20.

The half-yearly repayments on loans, interest, and principal included, are as follows per \$1,000: On a 3-year loan, \$186; 4-year, \$145; 5-year, \$119; 6-year, \$102; 7-year, \$90.25; 8-year, \$81.25; 9-year, \$74.25; 10-year, \$69; 20-year, \$45; 30-year, \$38.25; 36½-year, \$36.

The commission has five appraisers in the field in the various parts of the Province, and every effort is being made to complete the work of appraising before the winter weather sets in. The appraisal fees

charged are: For loans of \$500 or less, \$2.50; from \$500 to \$1,250, \$5; from \$1,250 to \$2,500, \$7.50; from \$2,500 to \$10,000, \$10.

[The terms of the British Columbia agricultural-credits act were set forth in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 17, 1915, and May 10, 1916; information concerning the floating of bonds to raise money to be used in making loans under this act was given in the issue for May 17, 1916; and the granting of the first loans, in the issue for Sept. 15, 1916.]

UNITED STATES BUYS CANADIAN POTATO STARCH.

[Consul William A. Pierce, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Nov. 24.]

An estimate was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 22 of 7,000,000 bushels as the 1916 Prince Edward Island potato crop. The production has met, if not slightly exceeded, this figure. Large exportations of the surplus crop have been made to Canadian markets.

Shipments have also been made within the last 30 days to the United States totaling 75,000 bushels. In addition there have gone to American buyers 270 tons of potato starch manufactured from island potatoes in island starch factories. Reckoning the production at 200 bushels, or 12,000 pounds, of potatoes to a ton of starch, 270 tons of starch represents the product of 54,000 bushels of potatoes. This makes the (in part, estimated) total takings by American importers of Prince Edward Island potatoes and potato products amount to 129,000 bushels. Not in more than a quarter of a century, according to manufacturers here, have shipments of potato starch been made to the United States.

Total exports from this Province of Canada to the United States have now, for the first time in the history of the Charlottetown consulate, passed the \$800,000 mark.

SHIPMENTS OF CRUDE RUBBER FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul George H. Pickerell, Para.]

The total shipments of crude rubber from Para, Manaoas, and Itacoatiara, Brazil, for the United States during October, 1916, were 3,777,797 pounds and to Europe 1,900,142 pounds. The amounts of the different grades were as follows:

Grade.	From Para.		From Manaoas.		From Itacoatiara.	
	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Fine.....	1,660,232	337,522	466,243	836,297	12,368	4,762
Medium.....	121,362	5,789	113,252	55,660	1,003	.....
Coarse.....	828,236	33,442	223,000	36,296	8,025	2,866
Caucho.....	314,816	302,410	28,511	284,746	749	352
Total.....	2,924,646	679,163	831,006	1,212,999	22,145	7,980

Transportation Company Registers Flag and Funnel Marks.

The United States Bureau of Navigation announces the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of the following-described house flag and funnel marks of the Standard Transportation Co., 26 Broadway, New York: House flag, a blue rectangular flag with the letter S superimposed thereon; funnel marks, a black stack with the letter S in white superimposed thereon.

ARGENTINE BOTTLE INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, Oct. 16.]

Before the war the Argentine glass-bottle industry was, on the whole, hardly able to compete in price and quality with foreign manufactures. As an example, ordinary dark wine or beer bottles, for which the demand is, of course, largest, containing from two-thirds to three-quarters of a liter (1 liter=1.056 quarts), were sold by Argentine factories at about 50 cents a dozen, whereas a local importer states that he has bought German bottles of the same type and superior in quality delivered at Rosario and with duty paid for from 41 to 46 cents per dozen. While Argentine bottles were sold without packing, German containers came packed in straw, the packing having a local market value of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen.

The advantages of price and quality in favor of foreign manufactures were still greater as respects the better grades of bottles. Argentine manufacturers had, on the other hand, certain advantages, the chief of which was their ability to make up special orders at short notice and to deliver in small lots. In order to make importation from abroad worth while and to secure the lowest prices, importers often had to place larger orders than suited their business.

With the temporary elimination of their principal foreign competitor, Argentine glass factories have considerably extended their operations and are at present virtually supplying the home demand.

Rise in Prices.

Prices have risen considerably and are said to be about as follows at Rosario at present: Ordinary colored glass bottles, 60 to 75 cents per dozen; poor grade white glass, \$1.20; and best native white glass, \$1.50 per dozen. These prices refer to plain glass bottles containing from two-thirds to three-quarters of a liter. Fancy bottles cost, of course, more, and the customer has to pay for the mold. Practically all kinds of bottles are made to a greater or lesser extent and with more or less success in Argentina. It is stated that on account of the lack of first-class sand it is difficult to secure a perfectly clear white glass. Workmanship is considered inferior, as a rule, to that of imported bottles, and form is apt to be uneven.

Small soda bottles, called "bolitas," for which the demand is good, formerly cost from 58 to 68 cents a dozen and now bring 97 cents to \$1.16. England and France are the principal foreign sources of supply. A fairly good grade of soda bottle is made in the country and costs about \$1.06 per dozen.

Decreased Imports of Syphons.

The importation of syphons into Argentina, which are widely used throughout the country, has practically ceased during the last two years. The imports of single syphons in 1913 totalled 302,013, of which 167,621 came from the United Kingdom, 68,531 from France, and 49,870 from Austria-Hungary. The market price of syphons to soda-water manufacturers at Rosario has risen from 48 cents to 68 cents each on an average. Syphons are made in Argentina.

Opening for American Bottles.

While the demand for containers of all kinds has greatly fallen off as a result of local market conditions, this does not suffice to ex-

plain the large decrease in imports, which is due in large part to the cutting off of former sources of supply and shipping difficulties. Provided American manufacturers can deliver a good grade of bottle well packed at a price sufficiently attractive to compensate the facilities offered by a close range trade with Argentine factories, American bottles can find a market here. Present high freights may make this difficult. Undoubtedly the quickest and most satisfactory way of getting a start in the field would be to send out a representative to study the market and meet importers personally. Indeed it may be doubted if an extensive permanent business can be established in any other way.

American exporters must not demand cash in advance or against documents in New York. It appears that Rosario consumers buy from Argentine glass factories on a cash basis, and under such circumstances importers should not object to paying cash on arrival of goods against delivery of the documents at Rosario. They are apt, however, to reserve the right to inspect the shipment before accepting the documents.

Bottles must be securely packed. German manufacturers shipped bottles in individual straw cases securely packed in canvas bags containing usually a gross of bottles. Local importers consider straw cases greatly superior to corrugated cardboard, which is apt to lose all elasticity in the course of a long voyage with frequent handling.

Lists of Importers—Bottling Machinery.

A list of possible importers of bottles at Rosario is transmitted [a copy of which can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 81917]. The list includes breweries, manufacturers of soda water, liquors, etc., and importers of supplies.

The concerns mentioned as possible importers of bottles might be addressed by exporters of bottling machinery and supplies. Machinery is used by breweries and manufacturers of liquors and other beverages, particularly for corking, although it is also used for filling and other operations. The larger breweries are especially well equipped. Machinery has been imported from a number of countries. At present, owing to business depression, there appears to be practically no interest in new equipment.

Catalogues and correspondence intended for Argentina should be in the Spanish language.

[A previous report on the market for glass bottles in Argentina was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 10, 1916.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana....	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

BUILDING OPERATIONS IN CALGARY.

[Vice Consul George E. Bell, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Nov. 22.]

Building operations in Calgary are more active at present than at any time in the past two years. The most important work being done is the renovation of the Alberta Hotel into a number of business establishments (nine stores and one bank).

Inspector Fish, of the city building department, stated that he understood excavation for an armory to cost \$283,000 would be started in a few days. The owners of the Robin Hood Mills are arranging to build an office in connection with their mill at an estimated cost of \$27,000. A row of seven stores is being constructed on the principal business street, and another is being built by the Merchants' Bank at the corner of Center Street and Eighth Avenue. The front of this latter building will be of stone, in keeping with the bank, and the building will cost about \$5,500. The Central Methodist Church, which was burned last February, is being reconstructed. The work on the new Ford assembling plant is going ahead rapidly, and the Rumely Tractor Co.'s warehouse is under construction. The Western Canada Flour Mills have just completed a new office building costing \$5,500.

Building permits to the extent of \$152,550 were issued in the city of Calgary for the year 1915, as against \$615,900 during the 10 months ended October 31, 1916.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 8848.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving the schedule numbers for the supply of the following: Schedule 458, mineral (kerosene) oil; schedule 459, petroleum spirits; schedule 460, rubber gasket and gum gasket; schedule 461, illuminating wax; schedule 462, furnishing and installing pneumatic tube system; schedule 463, heavy, medium, and light linoleum; schedule 464, 12-inch deck planer; schedule 465, apples, beans, jams, coconut, etc., pearl barley, canned prunes, rice, canned salmon, and Vienna style sausage; schedule 466, dry, red lead, red lead (paste form), white lead, basic sulphate white lead, dust zinc, white, oxide zinc, and white zinc in oil; schedule 467, motor delivery wagon; schedule 468, valves, valve seats, etc., and tool-face spanners; schedule 469, steel baskets, wood tubs, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch to $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch steel balls, brass screws, and name plates; schedule 470, punching machine; schedule 471, white ash, hickory, hackmatack knees, lignum-vitæ logs, white oak, dock juniper poles, and white pine; schedule 472, square edge white cedar, grade "A" cypress, cypress for boat building, yellow pine partition, North Carolina pine, yellow long-leaf pine, yellow pine, spars and shores spruce poles, and southern spruce; schedule 473, yellow pine decking, Douglas fir, white plank oak, California redwood, and redwood shingles; schedule 474, ships' lighting cable, power lighting wire, and telephone wire; schedule 475, push buttons, interior communication cable, wall receptacles, terminals for connection boxes, magnet wire, single and double conductors, and twin conductor wire; schedule 476, glycerine and sperm oil; schedule 477, bulletin boards, rubber air hose, ship lavatories, fillet leather, eye protectors, chain blocks, and wardrobe locks; schedule 478, hydrofluoric acid, alcohol, chrome green in oil, and dry yellow ochre; schedule 479, brass pipe, steam traps, evaporator tubes and globe, angle, radiator valves, etc.; schedule 480, gauge glasses, asbestos gloves, fire clay, silica sand, rubber pump valves, and sheet copper; schedule 481, hand towels and platform scales; schedule 482, cotton sheeting and sheet tin; schedule 483, magnesite paste, composition nuts, machine nuts, and foundry iron; and schedule 484, ball bearings and 2-inch, 6-foot, and 16-foot length steel.

Medical supplies, No. 3849.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until December 4, 1916, for furnishing and delivering acetic acid, boric acid, carbolic acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, oxalic acid, salicylic acid, sulphuric ether, etc. Specifications and further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3850.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 22, 1916, for the construction complete, of the post office at Bakersfield, Cal. Drawings and specifications may be obtained from the custodian of the site at Bakersfield, Cal., or at the Washington office.

Box shooks, No. 3851.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until December 4, 1916, for furnishing 25-inch by 16-inch by 13-inch, inside measurements, box shooks, samples of which may be examined at the Medical Supply Depot. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3852.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 27, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Laconia, N. H. Drawings and specifications may be had from the custodian of the site at Laconia, N. H., or from the Washington office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Anvils and vises.....	23168	Iron, pig.....	23165
Belt dressing.....	23162	Lawn sprinklers.....	23163
Billiard cloth.....	23158	Machinery, brass foundry.....	23159
Biscuits.....	23168	Machinery, drilling.....	23161
Blow torches.....	23163	Paper.....	23163
Boots and shoes.....	23163	Pens.....	23163
Fish, preserved.....	23156	Preserves.....	23168
Flour.....	23168	Sadlrons.....	23163
Forges.....	23163	Textiles.....	23163
General merchandise.....	23160-23167	Toys.....	23166
Hardware.....	23162, 23163, 23164	Twine.....	23157

23156.*—A wholesale merchant in Spain desires to purchase preserved fish. Payment in manner agreeable to shipper. Correspondence in English.

23157.*—A firm in Canada desires quotations and samples of cotton twine for making mops, and cotton hemp and jute twine for wrapping purposes. Reference.

23158.*—Quotations and samples of first quality green cloth for billiard tables are desired in France. Correspondence may be in English.

23159.†—A manufacturers' agent in the West Indies desires to communicate with manufacturers in a position to supply the requisite machinery and equipment for a brass foundry. Correspondence in English.

23160.*—A man in Venezuela wishes to represent American exporters of general merchandise. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23161.*—A manufacturer in Spain desires to purchase steel drilling machinery and machinery and tools for cutting screw threads. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23162.—A firm in the Far East wishes to be placed in touch with manufacturers of belt dressings and belt paste and light hardware.

23163.—A commission merchant in a foreign colonial possession desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of paper of all kinds, steel pens, general hardware, flour, boots and shoes, cotton, silk, and woolen woven goods. References.

23164.*—A hardware dealer in Central America is in the market for sadlrons, charcoal irons, anvils, vises, forges, gasoline blow torches, and brass or nickel-plated lawn sprinklers. Correspondence in English. References.

23165.*—An iron founder in Spain is desirous of obtaining the exclusive representation for Spain of an American concern specializing in iron cast in pigs. Correspondence in Spanish.

23166.†—An American who has been in Australia for the past five years desires to represent an American manufacturer of toys, particularly mechanical toys, dolls, etc. Negotiations may be opened through representative who will be in the United States in January of next year.

23167.‡—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 22839, the representative of a Norwegian firm which has recently opened an office in the United States, informs the bureau that his firm wishes to purchase all kinds of goods for shipment not only to the Scandinavian countries but also for the Russian market.

23168.‡—An importer in Siam desires to purchase fair quantities of biscuits, preserves, and similar articles. Credit account has been opened in New York. Interested firms may communicate with representative in the United States.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 284 Washington, D. C., Monday, December 4 - 1916

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MODIFICATION OF BRITISH PROHIBITION ON HOSIERY.

[Cablegram from the Consul General, London, Dec. 1.]

Only cotton hosiery ordered before date of prohibition to import (i. e., Oct. 3, 1916) will be admitted after December 31. Such hosiery will be admitted under license, provided it has been shipped prior to April 1, 1917. It must be clearly understood that no license will be granted unless evidence of the date on which orders were placed and date of shipment is conclusive. It will be necessary for Controller Import Restrictions to be furnished immediately for record with full statement of cotton hosiery ordered by importer before date of prohibition.

[Previous notices regarding the British restriction on hosiery imports were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 6 and Nov. 14, 1916. Hosiery is defined by the British authorities to be "any garment made of fabric made on a knitting or hosiery machine as distinguished from woven fabric." American manufacturers or forwarders who made contracts with British importers prior to Oct. 3, 1916, should immediately take steps to supply their consignees with any documents which may be of assistance to them in proving that agreements were consummated before that date and that the granting of a license is therefore justified.]

BIDS FOR ABATTOIR BY-PRODUCTS PLANT.

With reference to the report from the American consul at Johannesburg, South Africa, published in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 30, calling attention to tenders called for by the Municipal Council of Johannesburg for the supply and delivery of the requisite machinery and equipment for an extension to the by-products plant of the municipal abattoirs, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is advised that the time for opening these bids has been extended from December 15 to February 15, 1917.

SHORTAGE OF LEATHER IN NORWAY.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Oct. 25.]

One of the many commodities urgently required by Norway is leather, particularly shoe leather, the stocks of which are becoming dangerously low. Shoe manufacturers are meeting with great difficulties in securing adequate supplies, and unless their requirements are speedily met from the United States some firms will be obliged to close down their factories.

Although the imports of leather for the first seven months of the current year increased 73 per cent over those of the corresponding period of 1915, these have not sufficed to supply the needs of the home manufacturers, owing to a greatly increased demand, a natural concomitant of the existing prosperous industrial conditions. To gain the good will and confidence of customers an improvement in methods must be adopted by those firms which for the sake of temporary profits elsewhere have been tempted to neglect their Norwegian customers.

Glazed Kid and Box Calf.

As stated there is a great dearth of leather of all kinds, especially glazed kid, sheepskins, and box calf. In glazed kid Norway uses heavy mediums, mediums, and a small quantity of light mediums. In sizes nothing less than 4-foot skins can be sold. In the best grade, skins running from 5 to 6 feet are in greatest demand, while in the cheaper grades skins 6 to 7 feet are preferred, and in the cheapest grades those from 7 to 8 feet. About 50 per cent of all the glazed kid used is of the heavy medium weight, while 35 per cent is of the medium weight. Of the total quantity sold skins running from 4 to 5 feet form about 15 per cent; those from 5 to 6 feet, 40 per cent; from 6 to 7 feet, 25 per cent; and 7 to 8 feet, 20 per cent. The duty on glazed kid is 18.2 cents a pound.

Box calf was previously obtained chiefly from Germany. It came in bundles containing 1 dozen skins each, and was sold in Norway in three different grades and weights. The skins ran generally from 8 to 14 feet, about 45 per cent being of the heavy grade, 30 per cent heavy medium, and 15 to 20 per cent medium. Norwegian importers prefer a clean cutting skin more than a good grain, as the cutters are accustomed to skins without holes or breaks of any kind. As a rule American box calf and sides were dearer than the German products, while the glazed kid was slightly cheaper. Heavy leather, such as sole and oil grain, can not be imported to advantage because of the high rate of duty, which is based on weight. Norway itself is able to supply the local market in the heavy leather, and does not need to import. The duty on tawed, dyed, varnished, waxed, and similar skins under 1 kilo (2.2046 pounds) is 18.2 cents a pound, while those between 1 and 2 kilos pay only 12.2 cents a pound. Importers of box calf, therefore, always try to obtain skins just over 1 kilo in weight to avoid the higher duty.

Direct Trading.

Before the war much of the American leather used in Norway was obtained through German firms located in Hamburg and Frankfort. It is not clear as to just why the business was handled in this way, but one inducement was the easier credit terms offered by the Ger-

mans. Not only did they grant 30 days' credit and, in some instances, four months' acceptances, but under their system the Norwegian importer was able to allow his customer to inspect the goods before paying for them, a privilege to which much importance was attached and for which they were willing to pay in the shape of slightly higher prices.

As these former sources of supply are not now available, Norwegian importers have formed direct connections with the United States, and they desire to keep these connections when hostilities cease the competition is again renewed. It is to the interest of American firms to see that the present arrangements are continued, for the German jobbers who previously handled their trade in Norway also handled leather of German manufacture, and naturally gave their own manufacturers the preference when soliciting business. In order that the new method of handling the trade—that is, by direct representation—may prove successful, American manufacturers should try to conform more to the methods followed by their competitors. As favorable terms as possible should be granted, and agreements, of course, should be scrupulously observed.

Importance of Credit.

The importance of credit terms and the abolishment of cash payments can not be too often insisted upon, not only in the leather trade but in many other lines. Firms which for years have been accustomed to receive credit from foreign suppliers do not take kindly to the American system of cash payments, and although obliged for the present to accept such terms they will undoubtedly return to their old connections after the war unless this practice is discontinued. This is the opinion of most of the more important dealers, and it would be well for American manufacturers to take careful note of it if they desire to retain even a portion of the huge trade which they have acquired here in the past two years.

[A list of Christiania leather importers may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 82092.]

NEW SHIPPING SCHEDULE CONTEMPLATED.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Guatemala, Nov. 20.]

The business men of Guatemala are much pleased over a contemplated change in the schedule of the United Fruit Co.'s steamers between New Orleans and Puerto Barrios. According to a tentative schedule that may be put into effect April 1, 1917, the time of steamers operating between New Orleans and Puerto Barrios will be shortened to 3 days and 18 hours instead of 4 days and 18 hours, as at present.

The United Fruit Co. is under contract with Belize, British Honduras, to give it a weekly service from New Orleans, and this adds one whole day to the present schedule. This contract will expire April 1, 1917, and it is possible that the agreement will not be renewed. In case the new run is made effective next April, Guatemala will be brought one day nearer to New Orleans, and the commercial affairs between this Republic and the United States will be expedited more advantageously to both countries.

The United Fruit Co. provides a weekly service to New Orleans and a fortnight service to New York.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**COSTA RICA.**

[Consul Benjamin F. Chase, San José, Nov. 18.]

Floods of the past 10 days have destroyed a railroad bridge of the Pacific Railroad of Costa Rica. A new bridge is reported necessary. Particulars as given by the Secretary of the Administration of the railroad are:

The bridge that was destroyed is the Puente de la Boca de Barranca at 12 kilometers (about 7½ miles) from Puntarenas, constructed by an American engineer. The bridge had 3 spans of 120 feet each and each span weighed 80 tons. The whole construction rested on 8 cylinders of 6½ feet diameter each. The cost of this bridge was 96,911 colones (\$45,064) and the approaches were estimated at 9,169 colones (\$4,264).

The railroad is owned by the Government of Costa Rica. A special appropriation of the Congress now in session seems necessary before the bridge can be replaced. Particulars as to tenders have not yet been published. Firms desiring to bid should address the General Manager of the Ferrocarril al Pacifico (Pacific Railroad), Mr. Isaac Zuñiga M. Oficina del Administrador, San José, Costa Rica.

Correspondence should be in Spanish, although English is understood. Local representation will not likely be necessary.

In addition to the above bridge being entirely destroyed, much damage was done to other bridges along the line.

CUBA.

[Consul Henry M. Wolcott, detailed as vice consul at Habana, Nov. 17.]

Cuban Government Grants Subsidy for Projected Railway.

The President of Cuba signed a decree on November 16 granting the Compañía del Ferrocarril del Norte de Vuelta Abajo a subsidy of \$6,000 per kilometer (\$9,650 per mile) for the construction of a railway connecting the city of Pinar del Rio and the port of Esperanza on the north coast, with a connecting branch to La Palma. It is reported that the company will begin work at once.

The new railway will traverse a rich agricultural and mineral section, including the valley of Viñales, whose scenic beauty has always been a source of admiration to travelers in western Cuba. Viñales, the port of Esperanza, and La Palma are now connected with the provincial capital city of Pinar del Rio by a splendid highway, over which an automobile-bus service is afforded twice daily.

This railway will also traverse part of the lowlands of the celebrated Vuelta Abajo district and the "Lomas" or hill country, where the best tobacco of the world is grown.

SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Oct. 9.]

Royal Railway Pavilion—Southern Railway.

The Royal Railway Department has recently accepted the tenders of the Bangkok Dock Co. (Ltd.) for the construction of royal railway pavilion near one of the king's palaces at Sam Sen. The building will be constructed of ferroconcrete, and the central portion of the building will be surmounted by a dome. The building is to be completed within nine months, and will cost \$30,340.

The linking up of the Siamese Southern Railway line with Singora and Trang, the most southern and important ports in the Siamese Malay States, has now been carried out, the line from Bangkok to these cities having been opened to traffic on October 8, 1916. According to the present arrangement the journey from Bangkok to Trang will occupy four days, two nights being spent at rest houses erected at Chumporn and Tung Song. Travelers to Siam may now proceed from Singapore via Penang in the British Federated Malay States to Trang and thence by rail to Bangkok.

The total length of the southern line now under traffic is 972 miles, of which 575 miles represent the main line, and 98 miles the branches to Nakon Sritamarat, Trang, and Singora.

For connection with the Siamese lines with those of the British Federated Malay States there yet remains to be constructed 136 miles to Kelantan, over which the rails have already been laid for 65 miles, and 30 miles to Kedah, on which rails have been laid for 23 miles.

SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Oct. 25.]

Opening of Branch Line to Umtata.

The opening of the branch line of the South African Railways recently completed to Umtata was the occasion of a notable gathering.

Premier Botha formally opened the line, and in the course of his address referred to the opportunities presented by the new line for further development of this fertile section of what is known as the Transkei.

Umtata is 212 miles by rail from East London. The railway to Idutywa was completed in July, 1913, and the line to Umtata is a 58-mile extension of this branch.

That portion of the Cape Province lying east of the Kei River is called Kaffraria, and comprises the districts of Transkei, Tembuland, Griqualand East, and Pondoland.

Umtata is the capital of Tembuland and has a white population of 1,100.

This section of the Province is favorable for both crop and stock raising and is fairly well watered.

SMALLER CROPS EXPECTED IN ARGENTINA.

The crops in Argentina have suffered from drought and locusts this year. The Director General of Rural Economy and Statistics reported on October 27 to the Minister of Agriculture: "In the Provinces of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios a portion of the crops is irretrievably lost, while the remainder promises only a medium yield. In the Province of Buenos Aires the western region is in a relatively satisfactory condition, while all the southern region promises up to the present a good harvest. As to the Pampa Central, conditions are fairly good in the south and bad in the north. This state of affairs confirms my forecast of a harvest much inferior to that of the agricultural year of 1915-16." The River Plate Review states that a rain which fell about the 1st of November over a considerable area of Argentina did a certain amount of good to crops and pasture lands but was insufficient to modify appreciably the prospects of the next harvest.

PROPOSED JAPANESE INSPECTION OF EXPORTS.

[Vice Consul E. R. Dickover, Kobe, Oct. 30.]

Japanese newspapers here state that there has been considerable criticism, both by importers in various parts of the world and by Japanese consuls, concerning the inferior quality of Japanese manufactures.

Japan's consuls and trade organizations claim that although, owing to conditions created by the war, the country has an exceptional opportunity to supply the markets of the Orient, the South Seas, and Russia with innumerable articles formerly sold by the belligerent countries of Europe, the local manufacturers and exporters are throwing away this opportunity by supplying goods of inferior quality.

Local and National Inspection of Goods.

Both the local authorities and the National Government are attempting measures designed to improve the quality of goods exported by means of official inspection. The Kwansai Nippo states that the Osaka Prefecture has already instituted an official inspection of certain goods destined for export, among them being soap, glassware, and underwear. Other articles are to be added later as the inspection system is extended. The manufacturers of enamel ware in the Prefecture objected to the inspection, however, on the grounds that it would place them at a disadvantage unless the wares manufactured in other Prefectures also were inspected. The objection demonstrated the necessity for a more universal inspection, and according to the Japan Chronicle the Commercial and Industrial Bureau of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce of the National Government is compiling regulations intended to prevent the exportation of goods of inferior quality. The method proposed is the appointment of official inspectors to be attached to every trade guild, all goods being submitted to their inspection before exportation. All the guilds with the single exception of that in the glassware industry express their approval of the proposed measure.

Defects Found in Shipments of American Goods.

American manufacturers and exporters are by no means free from the fault of exporting inferior goods at periods of great commercial activity. A few of the official surveys of American goods made in Kobe and Osaka during the six months from April to September, 1916, show:

White glazed printing paper, 140 cases, under weight and quality inferior to that ordered.

Formaldehyde, 112 barrels, contained foreign matter and was discolored; had to be sold as third quality instead of first quality which had been ordered.

Round steel bars, 1,126 bundles, cracked and marked by spiral lines; unfit for use for which ordered.

Tartaric acid crystals, 16 barrels, poorly packed in old barrels, with the result that a considerable quantity was lost or spoiled.

Colored poster paper, 200 bundles, quality inferior to samples; certain colors included which were not ordered; two-fifths of each package injured by poor packing.

Benzol, 56 drums, adulterated with water and sulphuric acid and not up to standard quality which had been ordered.

Sheet glue, 150 cases, color darker than original sample; unsuited for hat making for which it was ordered; sheets broken by poor packing.

Naphthalin, 200 cases, low grade; only partly refined; flakes discolored by the tar oils and other by-products present.

Gray acetate of lime, 620 bags, included only 454 bags of first quality, as ordered, containing 82.5 per cent of acetate of lime, with 166 bags of second quality, containing only 76.8 per cent of acetate of lime.

American Dynamite Condemned by Government.

In addition 4,000 cases of American dynamite were condemned and destroyed by Japanese Government officials, because the manufacturers had not made the dynamite to conform to the Abel heat test, the official test of the Government. Four American marine motors, of standard makes, imported within a year, have all broken down on account of defective castings, one after only 20 minutes of running. The motors evidently had not been tested before shipment. Although replacements will be made gratis by the manufacturers the boats must be laid up for months while new parts are being sent out from the United States.

It is useless for American exporters to attempt to furnish Japanese merchants with goods of inferior quality, as the Japanese importers, as a rule, thoroughly understand the methods of adjusting claims for damaged or inferior goods by means of official surveys and the law courts. Our manufacturers and exporters should exercise every precaution to insure the quality of the goods shipped and to maintain the prestige of American manufactures.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barm'n, Germany....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 501 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	121 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendall, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 23	1101 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 501 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 23	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

COST OF LIVING IN SWITZERLAND IN SEPTEMBER.

[Vice Consul James L. A. Durrell, St. Gall, Nov. 1.]

The investigation made by the Union of Swiss Cooperative Purchasing Societies (Verband Schweizerischer Konsumvereine) concerning the retail prices within the Republic on September 1, 1916, in which 295 societies with 257,995 members took part, established that there was an advance of prices for butter, fats (particularly kidney fat), oils, and some cereals. Meat was 5 to 10 per cent higher than in June, 1916; potatoes, 10 per cent. Chocolate, sauerkraut, plums, vinegar, coal, wood alcohol, petroleum, and soap also were more expensive. Inconsiderable decreases in price were found for flour, grits, barley, rice, cacao, and tea. The cost of the other necessities of life remained unchanged.

The yearly expenses of a family of two adults and three children under 10 years amounted to the following sums on the basis of the prices in June, 1914, June, 1916, and September, 1916:

Articles.	Yearly expenditures based on prices in—			Increase over June, 1914, in—		Per cent of increase in—	
	June, 1914.	June, 1916.	Sept. 1916.	June, 1916.	Sept. 1916.	June, 1916.	Sept. 1916.
Milk and milk products.....	\$63.87	\$75.55	\$75.88	\$11.68	\$12.01	15.0	13.6
Edible fats and oils.....	7.85	12.87	13.55	5.02	5.70	6.5	6.5
Cereals.....	41.53	64.77	64.76	23.24	23.23	30.0	26.3
Legumes.....	1.83	3.16	3.10	1.33	1.27	1.7	1.4
Meat.....	38.44	54.71	57.86	16.27	19.42	21.0	22.0
Eggs.....	7.72	13.89	15.44	6.17	7.72	8.0	8.8
Potatoes.....	6.75	7.72	10.61	.97	3.86	1.2	4.4
Sugar and honey.....	7.34	13.59	13.69	6.25	6.35	8.0	7.2
Other food products.....	7.02	8.19	8.67	1.17	1.65	1.5	1.9
Other necessities of life.....	19.04	24.56	25.98	5.52	6.94	7.1	7.9
Total.....	201.39	279.01	289.54	77.62	88.15	100.0	100.0

The increase in the annual expenditures of a normal family for food and other necessities since June, 1914, is thus shown to be \$88.15, or 43.8 per cent, and since June, 1916, \$10.53, or 3.8 per cent.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS GATUN LAKE WITH FISH.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Nov. 21.]

At the request of the authorities of the Canal Zone the United States Bureau of Fisheries recently sent here 21 large tin cans containing 450 black bass, 500 rock bass, 1,000 catfish, and 800 sunfish, which have been distributed in Gatun Lake in order to determine whether such fish will thrive in its waters. As this lake varies from an abundance of shallow water to a depth of 85 feet, and as it is very irregular in shape, dotted over with islands, and generally bordered with forest growth, it seems to be an ideal place for the propagation of fish adapted to a tropical climate.

If the present experiment succeeds, this lake, which covers 164 square miles, might furnish enough fish to meet a considerable part of the demand for fresh fish on the Canal Zone. While such additional fish would be desirable at any time, it would be important to have this reserve supply to depend upon in case of any difficulty in obtaining the usual quantity from the Atlantic or Pacific side of the isthmus.

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS IN CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Oct. 23.]

The Chilean customhouse returns for the first nine months of 1916 showed an increase in gold collections equal to \$12,161,156 United States currency, and an increase in currency collections equal to about \$1,159,486 over the corresponding period of the previous year. The increased returns from export taxes represented \$8,709,853 of this total and the increase in import duties \$3,143,216.

As upward of 96 per cent of the returns from export taxes are derived from nitrate of soda, the increase indicates the steady advance which this export industry has been making since the first nine months of depression following the outbreak of the European war.

The exportation of nitrate increased from 34,020,800 Spanish quintals (1 Spanish quintal=101.4 pounds) for the first nine months of 1914 and 31,842,000 quintals in 1915 to 47,077,700 quintals in the corresponding period in 1916.

Demand and Prices for Copper.

The foreign demand for copper has maintained a high level of prices on the Chilean coast during the past nine months and has developed a maximum amount of activity in the production of that metal.

Coast prices, per metric quintal of 220.46 pounds, for bar copper f. o. b. ship, Chilean port, have been as follows at the dates indicated in 1916: January 1, \$36.45; April 1, \$48.42; July 1, \$35.86; October 1, \$46.88.

The exports of copper bars to the United States during the first nine months of 1916, according to invoices certified at the consulate general at Valparaiso, amounted to 29,645,725 pounds, valued at \$6,893,928, compared with 16,533,936 pounds, valued at \$2,330,512, for the corresponding period in 1915; copper ores, 2,157 tons, valued at \$86,760, compared with 1,912 tons, valued at \$76,826; and copper regulus, 998 tons, valued at \$195,124, compared with 3,634 tons, valued at \$422,021.

Advance in Exchange.

Exchange advanced from 8½ pence in January, 1916, to 11 pence on September 26, 1916, the highest quotation since July, 1910. On September 30 exchange stood at 10¾ pence. This rise is generally charged to the excess of exports over imports with a consequent slackness in the demand for foreign bills, and the prohibitive cost of transporting gold from abroad at present.

The advance in the value of exchange has been a doubtful benefit to the Chilean manufacturer and merchant, since it is regarded as a temporary condition and one requiring many adjustments in order to offset the losses occasioned by the increased cost of labor, rents, raw materials, etc. The high prices obtained for all lines of domestic and imported products and a general practice of restricting credit terms have placed the more important business houses in an exceptionally flourishing condition.

Freight Rates.

Outward-bound freight charters were quoted as follows:

January, 1916:		Shillings.
United Kingdom and Continent—		
Sailer.....	-----	100
Steamer.....	-----	125-140
United States, Boston-Galveston—		
Range steamer.....	-----	83-85
April, 1916:		
United Kingdom and Continent—		
Sailer.....	-----	120
Steamer.....	-----	140
United States, Boston-Galveston—		
Range steamer.....	-----	125
July, 1916:		
United Kingdom and Continent—		
Sailer.....	-----	117
Steamer.....	-----	145
United States, Boston-Galveston—		
Range steamer.....	-----	110
September, 1916:		
United Kingdom and Continent—		
Sailer.....	-----	130
Steamer.....	-----	125
United States, Boston-Galveston—		
Range steamer.....	-----	125-128

During the latter part of September it was reported that five steamers were on demurrage on the coast, due to scattered condition and shortness of nitrate stocks.

The Coal Situation—Consumption and Prices.

On September 30, 1916, the Chilean State Railways accepted the offer of Chilean coal miners for 250,000 tons of coal, to be delivered at various ports during 1917, at an average price of about 46 shillings, delivered. The proportion of national and foreign coals, respectively, used by the State Railways in the years for which the records are available was: 1912, 48.51 and 51.49 per cent; 1913, 45.17 and 54.83 per cent; 1914, 15.19 and 84.01 per cent; and 1915, all the coal used by the State Railways was of local production. The State Railways in 1915 used 330,960 metric tons of coal.

Consumption will no doubt be somewhat less in 1916, as there have been curtailments of service on many lines because of coal shortage. The Chilean State Railways during the past year are said to have received about 20,000 metric tons of American coal.

The Chilean mines have had an excellent market in 1916 for their coal, all of which is consumed in Chile or sold for bunkering in Chilean ports. Their deliveries to coast ports, however, have been restricted to some extent by a lack of carrying space on coast steamers, and because of this restriction it is probable that the production for 1916 will fall short of the 1,500,000 metric tons which it was expected would be mined and shipped this year.

Coal prices on the coast (for northern ports) have been as follows:

Kind.	April, 1916.	July, 1916.	September, 1916.
	<i>Shillings.</i>	<i>Shillings.</i>	<i>Shillings.</i>
Chilean.....	87 to 93	60 to 85	50 to 65
American.....	80 to 85	67 to 72	55 to 67
Australian.....	95 to 100	83 to 86	65 to 70

The decrease in the price of American coal has been directly due to the increase of cargo space offered by steamers bound out to Chile to load nitrate. The demand for coal in the nitrate fields has also been stimulated by the difficulty which nitrate producers have experienced in obtaining fuel oil in sufficient quantities.

Coal brokers' reports give the imports of steam coal into Chile for the first six months of 1916 as follows: British, 9,260 metric tons; Australian, 68,526 tons; and American, 42,125 tons.

The United States and the Import Trade.

A larger proportion of purchasing has been done in the United States during the present year than in any former year. Some of this new business will no doubt be retained in the future, but that the United States must lose the greater part of the Chilean buying now diverted to it is evident. One reason for this is that American exporters have not built up commercial machinery for the regular handling of this trade, but have left it largely in foreign hands.

Complaints are heard in this market that American merchandise shipped is not according to or up to the standard of the sample by which it was sold; that the packing is inadequate and the documentation careless; and that delivery is slower than from many parts of Europe even at the present time.

The lines in regard to which most frequent complaints have been brought to this office have been hosiery, underwear, textiles, dressed leather, dyes, and dried codfish.

The following quotation is from a letter just received at this office, and gives very definitely the ideas of a Chilean importer on the lack of proper attention to orders:

We refer to the lack of proper attention given the filling of orders, since in many cases they (the American manufacturers) do not send merchandise in accordance with the sample offered, which occasions complaints and dissatisfaction and which course of action if not corrected will furnish sufficient grounds for the loss to North American commerce and industry of its influence in this market, once that peace is established and that the commerce and industry of Europe have become normal.

FLOATING DRY DOCKS IN VALPARAISO HARBOR.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Nov. 7.]

The concession granted Sr. Alfredo Ballivian (Grimwood) for the operation of two floating dry docks in the harbor of Valparaiso [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 27, 1916] has been revoked by a decree dated November 6, 1916. The second decree states that no permission or concession of this nature will be granted by the Chilean Government except as an award after the receipt and examination of public bids.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, BY COUNTRIES, FOR OCTOBER.

Total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during October and the 10 months ended with October, 1916, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have just been made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of October—		Ten months ended with October—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$45,089,316	\$43,852,086	\$528,984,987	\$433,173,256
North America.....	54,135,096	38,672,400	555,087,075	433,894,554
South America.....	30,558,650	30,324,717	318,105,074	259,836,657
Asia.....	43,393,150	29,445,920	437,286,584	244,957,473
Oceania.....	3,997,966	4,829,725	84,190,429	49,404,885
Africa.....	1,484,652	2,047,931	56,179,249	27,000,691
Total.....	178,653,730	149,172,729	2,009,833,398	1,451,267,515
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....	33,626	175,595	577,434	4,846,154
Belgium.....	70,373	181,702	941,956	2,082,723
France.....	8,646,007	5,981,488	91,802,237	59,195,342
Germany.....	85,417	2,763,405	5,235,970	40,972,088
Italy.....	3,881,197	3,395,255	51,267,234	41,825,067
Netherlands.....	3,640,500	1,870,157	27,323,550	21,836,343
Norway.....	659,543	573,195	5,090,317	5,892,933
Russia in Europe.....	27,485	42,092	4,306,758	1,672,388
Spain.....	2,248,709	1,910,223	25,703,447	13,830,937
Sweden.....	1,790,361	1,144,437	11,978,357	9,551,003
Switzerland.....	1,935,267	1,416,567	18,741,235	15,426,235
United Kingdom.....	20,153,625	23,289,109	257,770,305	204,462,807
Canada.....	25,905,382	22,099,413	188,699,222	140,631,101
Mexico.....	7,919,797	5,713,746	85,635,505	72,518,240
Cuba.....	16,608,357	8,232,705	218,193,437	177,083,869
Argentina.....	6,401,959	7,420,381	96,682,044	76,315,321
Brazil.....	10,786,844	14,970,111	101,550,569	92,410,666
Chile.....	8,086,522	1,624,022	71,213,052	31,599,941
China.....	5,443,010	3,849,432	68,468,237	41,756,813
British East Indies.....	15,086,775	10,751,996	174,803,388	97,653,648
Japan.....	17,485,230	11,441,189	148,734,575	85,215,833
Australia and New Zealand.....	1,049,693	3,250,554	52,991,346	28,103,584
Philippine Islands.....	2,738,961	1,202,467	28,393,576	19,568,375
Egypt.....	41,352	496,584	25,783,966	16,325,316
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	350,339,666	240,104,544	3,110,635,857	2,095,501,811
North America.....	88,946,060	56,811,680	737,463,423	444,527,731
South America.....	21,481,777	12,859,228	179,741,817	115,454,422
Asia.....	19,411,121	15,677,959	287,359,373	115,526,019
Oceania.....	8,235,882	6,956,372	88,062,602	77,626,861
Africa.....	4,398,512	3,742,206	40,613,198	29,057,338
Total.....	492,813,918	339,152,009	4,443,326,271	2,867,694,132
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....		1,024	61,771	104,525
Belgium.....	1,839,871	1,085,358	22,370,429	18,291,847
Denmark.....	6,027,496	4,425,299	47,436,548	63,146,450
France.....	81,929,655	32,537,108	710,400,312	402,625,558
Germany.....		2,500	1,118,281	11,777,858
Greece.....	3,909,427	2,479,678	29,854,895	23,556,204
Italy.....	30,066,754	38,625,751	229,952,692	221,251,405
Netherlands.....	9,960,418	10,046,215	90,956,203	126,688,450
Norway.....	6,858,267	4,799,112	52,828,636	36,694,139
Russia in Europe.....	18,362,998	11,283,053	249,093,181	85,749,378
Spain.....	6,436,304	5,045,557	48,370,165	35,947,450
Sweden.....	7,527,803	6,691,482	39,274,617	73,265,222
United Kingdom.....	173,950,679	119,449,780	1,557,221,430	968,254,599
Canada.....	55,347,014	35,300,550	492,469,376	276,452,483
Central America.....	4,632,423	3,133,597	37,867,638	30,116,518
Mexico.....	7,818,153	3,959,025	44,908,484	32,800,430
Cuba.....	15,868,160	9,980,011	128,966,646	73,128,406
Argentina.....	6,784,650	4,842,087	63,951,796	42,743,987

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of October—		Ten months ended with October—	
	1916	1915	1913	1915
EXPORTS TO—continued.				
Principal countries—Continued.				
Brazil.....	\$3,324,651	\$2,695,219	\$37,882,379	\$27,710,900
Chile.....	4,757,956	1,846,810	27,853,213	13,817,234
China.....	2,838,067	1,507,619	25,339,746	17,043,001
British East Indies.....	2,322,016	1,630,926	23,351,548	16,850,645
Japan.....	9,796,210	4,323,672	81,003,567	36,323,879
Russia in Asia.....	2,868,895	7,015,871	132,378,375	29,597,827
Australia and New Zealand.....	6,638,971	5,102,490	68,523,364	53,518,053
Philippine Islands.....	1,515,880	1,778,980	18,330,315	23,198,423
British Africa.....	2,394,915	2,554,453	25,729,145	19,656,562

TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS ARTICLES.

The Secretary of Commerce, in Department Circular No. 274, Steamboat-Inspection Service, dated November 21, 1916, entitled "Caution and admonition to those concerned in the transportation of dangerous or inflammable articles," addressed to masters, owners, and agents of vessels engaged in the transportation of general cargo, and also vessels carrying passengers and cargo, and others concerned, calls attention to certain dangerous practices in the transportation of dangerous or inflammable articles, from which accidents have resulted, and admonishes and cautions all concerned regarding the great care which should be exercised by shippers and carriers in packing, shipping, and stowing inflammable or combustible materials, whether in restricted or exempted lists or not. The circular states:

Recent developments while investigating casualties occasioned by fire on vessels at sea, and particularly on those vessels that carry both cargo and passengers, lead the department to issue this letter of admonition and caution to all concerned regarding the great care that should be exercised by shippers and carriers in packing, shipping, and stowing inflammable or combustible materials, whether in restricted or exempted lists or not, as it has been most clearly demonstrated that fire, the most dreaded of all the hazards, can be averted and prevented by the exercise of possible precautions.

Destruction of Steamer with Heavy Loss.

It has been found that roofing paper, in each roll of which was a can or canister of paint with benzene as an ingredient, was carried in large quantities in the lower hold of a steamer which was recently destroyed by fire, entailing a money loss of nearly \$1,000,000, but fortunately no loss of life.

Excelsior, the inflammable properties and dangerous character of which are well known, is carried under various conditions in large quantities in the lower holds of steamers, in contact or in close proximity to other cargo easy of ignition, thereby setting up a condition which at once invites danger and possible disaster.

Acids which should be restricted to deck stowage have been found in both between decks and lower hold, the serious consequences of which should be realized by all who accept acids for transportation.

These are but few of many examples of dangerous practices which should be promptly and permanently corrected with a firm determination to carry out the necessary principle of "safety first" at sea. This cautionary letter is sent with the sincere hope that the lessons taught by experience may not be lost upon those concerned, whose earnest purpose is known to be the promotion of safety. This, it is believed, can be greatly enhanced without inconveniencing or retarding commerce in any manner.

IMPORTS INTO SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Oct. 19.]

A difference of \$68,992,716 between the imports and the exports for the first eight months of 1916 indicates to what extent South Africa continues to be an importing nation, while an increase of \$41,837,490 in imports for the first eight months over a corresponding period in 1915 will reveal the increased percentage of these imports.

South Africa provided an increasingly profitable market for apparel and slops during the 1916 period. There was a large increase in the imports of clocks and watches; but of greater significance is the rise in the value of cotton manufactures from \$1,459,995 to \$2,950,763. Other notable advances are, hardware and cutlery, from \$461,777 to \$722,947; machinery, from \$919,909 to \$1,158,324; oil, from \$190,895 to \$421,516; leather goods, from \$430,387 to \$789,365; stationery and books, from \$221,843 to \$418,806; wood and timber, from \$279,370 to \$494,167; and woolen manufactures increased by \$176,104.

There were noticeable decreases in imports of eggs by nearly \$92,463 in value; meat imports dropped by 1,800,000 pounds and \$335,788 in value. Imports of condensed milk were 4,000,000 pounds less, with a value of \$291,990, while oatmeal fell by 1,600,000 pounds and \$61,804 in value. Sugar imports were less by \$58,398. Butter, which is now increasing in importance as an export article, is also imported, but as compared with the eight months of 1915 imports of this commodity for 1916 decreased by 1,350,000 pounds, valued at \$382,506.

GOLD GUARANTY FOR PERUVIAN CIRCULAR BANK CHECKS.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Nov. 3; see also COMMERCE REPORTS for May 8 and 10, 1915, and Apr. 22, 1916.]

A statement issued on September 30, 1916, by the five banking institutions of Lima (Perú y Londres, Alemán Transatlántico, Italiano, Popular, and Internacional) shows in concise form the present status of these banks, particularly as regards the distribution of the circular bank checks issued in October, 1914. This statement reveals that the Banco Italiano is the first of this group to redeem in full in gold coin its share of the 1914 issue.

It is not improbable that from now on all these banks will gradually increase their gold guaranty, as some of the largest industrial companies of the Republic, the recently organized American bank, and others are, with the authority of the Government, importing gold disks of the size and weight of an English pound sterling to be minted here. This gold readily finds its way into circulation, and particularly to the banks, which retain it to augment their gold guaranty for the checks, and pay out circular checks instead. Moreover, circular checks and gold here are now practically at par. Consequently, it is not improbable that these circular checks will within a year be guaranteed entirely by gold if it is the policy of the banks to do so.

It might be mentioned, however, in this connection, that despite the large importations of gold within the last year there is not much of it in actual circulation.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Opera chairs, No. 3853.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 22, 1916, for furnishing and installing opera chairs in the Interior Department, Washington, D. C. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named officer.

Telephone switchboards, No. 3854.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until December 15, 1916, for furnishing two telephone switchboards. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named office.

Scout cruisers, No. 3855.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 3, 1917, for constructing three scout cruisers, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the above-named department.

Post-office construction, No. 3856.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 27, 1916, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the post office and court house at Oklahoma, Okla. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the custodian at Oklahoma, Okla., or at the Washington office.

Bottles, No. 3857.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until December 20, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Field Medical Supply Depot, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., 150 vials and 18,000 flasks. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Elevators, No. 3858.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 18, 1916, for two electric freight elevators, one each for the new structural shops at the navy yards, Norfolk, Va., and Philadelphia, Pa. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the commandants of the navy yards named.

Post-office construction, No. 3859.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1916, for the construction of the post office at Mount Carmel, Ill. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the custodian of the site at Mount Carmel, Ill., or at the Washington office.

Valves, No. 3860.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until December 11, 1916, for furnishing 400 valves for use on hydrogen cylinders. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Turkeys, No. 3861.—Sealed proposals will be received at the general depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until December 8, 1916, for furnishing and delivering frozen turkeys. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Cranes, No. 3862.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1916, for furnishing and installing one 80-ton bridge crane, three 15-ton bridge cranes, twelve 5-ton wall cranes, and eight 3-ton wall cranes, more or less, in each of the new structural shops at the navy yards, Norfolk, Va., and Philadelphia, Pa. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandants of the navy yards named.

Message books, No. 3863.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until December 11, 1916, for furnishing 25,000 field message books. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Bushings	23178	Matches	23177
Buttons	23179	Nails, chair	23173
Candles	23177	Nuts, corozo	23179
Cardboard	23179	Paints	23177
Celluloid articles	23179	Paper	23179
Cellulose	23179	Pipe-organ supplies	23170
Cotton and linen cloth	23174	Photographic materials	23171
Ditching machines	23169	Sand, for glass making	23181
Enameled and tinware	23177	Shoes	23179
Glass	23177	Soap	23177
Leather	23175	Spices	23177
Machinery	23180	Steel-mill equipment	23176
Machinery, cotton spinning	23172	Wood pulp	23179

23169.—The representatives in the United States of a firm in Argentina is interested in machines for making field trenches for irrigation. Reference.

23170.*—A firm in Canada desires to get in touch with builders of pipe organs and organ supplies and parts. Reference.

23171.*—A commission merchant in Spain is in the market for photographic materials and supplies. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23172.—A cotton-spinning establishment in Brazil desires catalogues from American manufacturers of cotton-spinning machinery for the enlargement of its plant.

23173.*—A firm in the United Kingdom is desirous of obtaining the sole agency for an American manufacturer of chair nails. The patterns particularly required are those with various shapes of heads, fitted with split pegs, though the firm states it can sell those with single shanks as well.

23174.†—A firm in France wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of high-grade cotton and linen cloth. Reference. Correspondence in French.

23175.*—A shoe manufacturer in a foreign colonial possession is in the market for glace kid and patent leathers for dress shoes. Present purchases about \$2,500 a month. Reference.

23176*—An iron and steel mill in Spain is in the market for materials for steel furnaces and rolling mills, such as furnace parts, clay lined ladles, rolling mill engines, ore buckets, tanks, molds, etc. Correspondence in Spanish or French. References.

23177.—A merchant in northern Africa wishes to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of tinware, enameled ware, unscented soap, matches, candles, spices, paints, and glass.

23178.*—A hardware firm in Central America desires to purchase from 300 to 400 pairs of cart-wheel bushings, made of cast steel. A sketch showing details of the bushing may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81636.) Correspondence in English. References.

23179.*—A firm of importers in Italy is in the market for wood pulp, cellulose, cardboard, wrapping paper, packing paper, corozo nuts, celluloid articles, buttons, and shoes for women and children. Correspondence in English. References.

23180.*—A firm of manufacturers in Spain wishes to purchase machinery for manufacturing braids and cables of manila hemp. Correspondence in English. References.

23181.—A firm in Canada desires to communicate with shippers in the United States of sand for the manufacture of glass.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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A FINE EXAMPLE OF COOPERATIVE THRIFT.

In view of the marked increase in the price of all kinds of paper the Department of Commerce again calls attention to the importance of saving rags, old papers of every kind, and all other available paper-making material. It has published a pamphlet upon the subject entitled "Saving of waste-paper material," which is available upon request to all who wish it.

An interesting and valuable experiment has been worked out in the city of Washington, which is commended to the attention of the newspaper press and the school authorities all over the country. With the efficient cooperation of a prominent Washington newspaper the school children in the city have saved since the fall term began over 150 tons of old newspapers, for which a sum in excess of \$2,000 has been realized, which will be devoted to the children's playgrounds. It is at once interesting and instructive to reflect upon the saving that would have been made had the children of other cities generally throughout the country been equally inspired and efficient.

It is not too late. If the fine example that has been set by the cooperation of the press and the public schools shall spread throughout the land, the saving will amount not to thousands alone in value but to millions. The movement in Washington is not concluded. It is still progressing with vigor. Its success should commend it to the press of the country, who can show their appreciation both of a public need and of the fine example set by one of their own profession by cooperating in the same good work.

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD, *Secretary.*

CONSIGNMENT OF STARCHES TO NORWAY.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 2.]

Blockade authorities announce that restrictions on importation of starches into Norway have been canceled. Consideration will be given in future to applications for licenses to export certain quantities of starches to Norway, provided they are consigned to the Norwegian Wholesale Grocers' Association and that applications are supported by certificates issued in favor of the importers by that association.

ADDITIONS TO BRITISH CONTRABAND LIST.

[Cablegram from American Vice Consul, London, Nov. 25.]

The following articles are declared absolute contraband as from November 23: Diamonds suitable for industrial purposes; silk in all forms and manufactures thereof; silk cocoons; artificial silk and manufactures thereof; quillaia bark; zirconium, cerium, thorium, and alloys and compounds thereof; zirconia; and monazite sand. In the list of absolute contraband for the item "Gold, silver, and paper money, etc.," substitute "Gold, silver, and paper money, securities, negotiable instruments, checks, drafts, orders, warrants, coupons, letters of credit, delegation, or advice, credit and debit notes or other documents which in themselves, or if completed or if acted upon by recipient, authorize, confirm, or give effect to the transfer of money, credit, or securities." The following articles are declared conditional contraband: Sponges, raw and prepared; glue, gelatine, and substances used in the manufacture thereof; empty barrels and casks of all kinds and their component parts.

[The Foreign Office has stated that in actual practice no distinction between absolute and conditional contraband is recognized. (See **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 24.) The French Government has made similar changes in the French contraband list, according to a cablegram received from the American consul general in Paris.]

RESTRICTIONS ON GOODS FOR NETHERLANDS AND NORWAY.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 2.]

Blockade restrictions on exports of pitch to the Netherlands and Norway are canceled and consideration will again be given to granting of licenses for exportation of reasonable quantities to these countries. Restrictions on exportation of beef casings and coffee to Norway are canceled and consideration will be given to applications to export certain quantities, provided that beef casings are consigned to Norwegian Wholesale Provision Merchants' Association and coffee to Norwegian Wholesale Grocers' Association and that applications are supported by certificates from the associations. The restriction on sheepskins consigned to the Netherlands is now limited to sheepskins proper, but as applied to Norway includes also pelts, goat and kid skins, bookbinding leather, chamois, glacé kid, morocco, persians, roans, basils, box calf, and pickled grains, and fleshers.

INSIDE-ROUTE PILOT, NEW YORK TO KEY WEST.

The Inside-Route Pilot, New York to Key West, third edition, has been issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. The volume covers the inland water route from New York to Beaufort entrance and New River Inlet, N. C., the seacoast and inlets between Beaufort entrance and Winyah Bay, S. C., and the inland water route from Winyah Bay to Key West, Fla. It is based upon surveys by the Coast and Geodetic Survey and United States Engineers, and a special examination by the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1916. Accompanying charts show the through routes that are practicable for small vessels. The aids to navigation are corrected to September 15, 1916. Copies of the publication may be obtained at 20 cents each from suboffices of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

SUGAR SITUATION IN FAR EAST.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 23.]

Present indications are that the shortage of the sugar-beet crop in Russia is to save the sugar interests of the Far East from a very precarious situation. For some months sugar prices all over the Far East, and particularly in Hongkong, have been steadily declining. Unrest in China has reduced the demand for the refined product, while at the same time two large new refineries have been opened in Japan for refining Formosan sugar, and the current crop of sugar in Formosa is reported as unusually large. Stocks of raw and low-grade sugars in Hongkong and Shanghai have been increasing from month to month while prices have dropped in corresponding degree.

The announcement that the Russia Government is coming into the Far Eastern market for supplies of sugar led to a boom in Hongkong refinery stocks, the shares of one refinery advancing about 10 per cent in value in the past five days. The only question in the situation seems to be as to how much sugar the Russian Government plans to purchase here. Orders for about 10,000 tons have been placed tentatively at \$12.60 local currency per picul, or about \$0.05 gold per pound, f. o. b. Hongkong for shipment to Vladivostok. A special lot of 2,500 piculs (some 165 short tons) of high-grade sugar has been sold for this trade at \$15 local currency per picul, or about \$0.06 gold per pound.

In spite of the prospective demand for the output of the Hongkong refineries prices have been advanced but little, as purchases have been made largely on contract. Of the sugar above mentioned about one-fourth came in the raw state from the Philippines, the rest coming from Java.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION IN SPAIN.

[Vice Consul Harris N. Cookingham, Barcelona.]

In answer to an inquiry from the United States regarding the educational advantages offered in Barcelona for one who desires to study here for a commercial career, there is a school of commerce called the "Escuela Superior de Comercio" or "Escuela Especial de Intendentes Mercantiles," where practical studies may be pursued. This school, like that at Madrid, of which it is a branch, is controlled by the national Government and maintained in part by the municipality. There is accordingly no fee for tuition, but small charges are made for matriculation, laboratory breakage, and right to examination.

As to the living expenses in Barcelona, these depend largely upon the individual taste of the student. In this city the Agencia Internacional, Puertaferri 23, 2^a, procures rooms and board in private houses for students who desire to avail themselves of the educational privileges of Barcelona, and in Madrid the "Junta para Ampliación de Estudios en el Extranjero," Residencia de Estudiantes, performs a somewhat similar service in procuring or providing accommodations for students there. The requirements of the Barcelona and Madrid institutions are practically uniform. The latter city, however, offers certain advantages of living and surroundings that Barcelona lacks.

PROPOSED RAILWAYS IN MANCHURIA.

[Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, China; translation and summary from Harbinski Vyestnik, Sept. 22.]

With the assistance of foreign engineers, the Chinese have surveyed several projected railways in northern Manchuria, including the Tsitsihar-Mergen-Sakhalin and the Harbin-Hailusien-Mergen-Sakhalin railroads. The first section, the branch line from Tsitsihar to Mergen, covers 240 versts (159 miles). The second section, or main line, from Harbin to Sakhalin, covers 700 versts (464 miles), as follows: From the shipyards opposite Harbin to Hulanchen, 20 versts; Hulanchen to Suihaisien, 80 versts; Suihaisien to Hailusien, 105 versts; Hailusien to Erkeshan, 90 versts; Erkeshan to Dedur, 50 versts; Dedur to Mergen, 125 versts; Mergen to Sakhalin, 230 versts.

Two Branches from Harbin.

The second section has two branches: The first direct from Harbin, and the second from Harbin through Lansiensien-Tsingansien-Baitsuansien, district Manai-gun-Mergen to Sahaliang, which is shorter by 70 versts (46 miles) than the line through Suihaisien, Hailusien, Erkeshan, Dedur, and Mergen to Sakhalin. The line through Lansiensien and farther does not coincide with the interests of the Chinese Eastern Railway, because from Bai-tsuiansien a large part will be parallel to the Chinese Eastern Railway at stations Duichinshan, Mangou Sun, and Anda, and will at the same time go around the rich Tunkien region (Hailusien), and especially the newly settled districts of Tunbeisien, Uyounichien, and Luimingsien.

Excavation and Construction Work Required.

The country through which the projected Tsitsihar-Mergen-Sakhalin line will run is a plain from Tsitsihar to the village of Sinanlin, at the foot of the Little Hingan range, and is mountainous from Sinanlin to Sakhalin (80 miles). In the level section the line follows the present Tsitsihar-Aigun road. On this division it will be necessary to build three large bridges: One over the Uirgol (Huyouerhe) River, spanning 140 feet, and two over the Huelerhe River, spanning 350 feet and 140 feet, respectively. The soil is generally clay, but stony toward the end of the division. The excavation work, it is calculated, will amount to not more than 21,000 cubic feet per verst (31,700 cubic feet per mile).

On the second division from the village of Sinanlin the rise is 980 feet in 20 versts (about 74 feet per mile). Afterwards there is a drop of almost the same distance to the village of Erkzan. On this division four bridges must be built spanning from 140 to 210 feet over the Lanchanke, Kumurhe, Shenke, and Ehe Rivers. In this division are found rubble, common soil, and cliffs. The average excavation is calculated to be up to 3,500 cubic feet per verst (about 5,300 cubic feet per mile).

For the drainage of rain water it will be necessary to build small bridges and culverts spanning in all 350 feet, and to protect the embankments from washouts it will be necessary to dig about 100 versts (66 miles) of hill canals (excavation 3,500 cubic feet per verst).

Cost of Construction.

Under such conditions, according to the preliminary calculations, the cost of building the new railway will be 30,000 to 40,000 rubles

per verst (\$23,300 to \$31,100 per mile at the normal exchange rate of \$0.515 to the ruble). The Chinese Government has decided to arrange so that the right of way be obtained free, by allowing the owners of land along the proposed railway to receive in another place twice the area taken for the railway. This will be a great saving because along the line for a distance of 200 to 230 miles in the direction of Hailusien the country is densely settled.

JAPAN'S IMPORTS OF AMERICAN WHEAT CURTAILED.

[Consul General George H. Seldmore, Yokohama, Nov. 8.]

Japanese dealers are not importing much flour from America at present, because the war has made the price almost prohibitive.

Before the war Japanese dealers used the cheaper grades of American flour to blend with the coarser Manchurian products. The bakers made the dough in batches weighing three pounds. After baking the bread loses 2 ounces, but is retailed at a price of 8 to 10 sen per pound (4 to 5 cents). It is usually sold in half-pound loaves.

The Japanese are not great bread eaters on account of their dislike of butter, but by degrees the consumption is increasing, as their children are being taught to eat bread after it has been slightly sweetened with a coating of sirup.

Unusual Situation in Japan's Wheat Market.

The Japan Times, in an article published on this date, states regarding the wheat trade:

A strange situation is being created in the wheat market in Japan, owing to the poor wheat crop in the United States this year. Japan, which has been importing no small amount of wheat and wheat flour every year thus far, is now about to export her produce to America.

Several days ago actual arrangements were made for the export of South Manchuria wheat to Seattle and Portland by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and the Abeko Shoten through some American agents who have been very active at Kobe for some time past. The total volume of business at the time was only 2,500 tons. But now it is reported that Messrs. Suzuki & Co., of Kobe, have arranged a contract with a certain American agent for the export of Japanese wheat to the extent of 500 tons at 6.25 yen per picul (\$0.023 per pound). This condition has been brought about by the scarcity of wheat in America this year.

Japan used to import 10,000,000 yen (\$1,985,000) worth of wheat and flour every year from the United States up to the outbreak of the present war in Europe, and even after the importation on a wholesale scale was stopped, some amount of trade has been continued. But now the tables have been turned.

Naturally this change in the situation has brought about a great boom in wheat in Japan. At Kobe, which is now the principal wheat-exporting port, 14.20 yen is the standard price for Japanese wheat, which is 4 yen above the last highest recorded between the old and the new season this year. However, South Manchuria wheat is still comparatively cheap and available for export, and, it is believed, in the latter product more business may be arranged.

A most beneficial effect has been produced by the poor wheat crop in the United States on Japan's flour market. Since last month more than 100,000 sacks of wheat flour have already been exported from Kobe to London, with British agents still buying actively. Indeed, they are intensifying their purchasing activities at Kobe and elsewhere, and according to a fairly trustworthy report contracts for 500,000 sacks more have been recently arranged by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Suzuki & Co., the Masudaya Shoten, and Yuasa & Co. with British agents. Prices in these circumstances are going up almost daily, and it is even believed that it will not be long before medium grades will reach a level of 3 yen per sack.

COSTA RICA GRANTS CONCESSION IN TURTLE INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul Albert B. Pullen, Port Limon, Nov. 13.]

A concession has been granted to Maduro & Sons, of Port Limon, by the Government of Costa Rica, for the privilege of exploiting turtle along the Atlantic coast of Costa Rica. A translation of the Government document gives the following details:

1. The Government of Costa Rica, hereinafter called the "Government," concedes to Maduro & Sons, hereinafter called the "firm," the privilege of exploiting the fishing of turtle along the beaches and waters of the Atlantic littoral during a period of five years, counted from the date on which the law approving this contract may be published in the Official Gazette, in consideration of the payment of a tax of 3,000 colones (\$1,400 United States gold) per annum.

2. The firm agrees to pay the taxes in advance. Failure to comply with this requirement will authorize the Government to cancel the present agreement.

Gasoline Craft May be Used by Government.

3. The firm agrees to have at least one gasoline craft which, in its regular trips, may be used by the Government for revenue and postal services. This boat, whenever necessary, shall lend national craft any assistance required. All these services are to be rendered free of charge.

4. The firm agrees to build a pen for a turtle hatchery, and to turn the hatchery over to the Government at the expiration or cancellation of this contract without exacting any indemnity whatsoever.

5. This contract can not be transferred to another company or person without the consent of the Government, and in no way can the firm resort to diplomatic means for the settlement of matters connected with this business.

The turtles are captured about 30 miles from Port Limon, at Tortuguero. The method of capture is unique. From the middle of June to the middle of September, 6,000 or 7,000 female turtles, weighing from 200 to 300 pounds each, crawl, during the night, along the beach of Tortuguero to lay their eggs. Each turtle lays approximately 1,000 eggs per annum.

Turtles Caught by Men Stationed Along Beach.

Men with lanterns are stationed along the beach to watch for the coming of the turtles. After allowing them to lay eggs, they catch the turtles and turn them on their backs. Once on their backs, they can not turn over, and are left until morning.

A schooner is anchored about half a mile from the shore. It can not come close in on account of the rough sea; neither can a canoe be controlled sufficiently to handle these large turtles. Two turtles are roped together, and a buoy is attached. Secured in this manner, they are allowed to go to sea. The two large turtles, fastened together and pulling against one another, usually drift straight out to sea. When sufficiently far out, the buoy is picked up by a boat and taken alongside the schooner. The turtles are lifted into the schooner by means of a tackle.

After they have been brought to Port Limon they are put into crawls, 150 feet long by 50 feet wide, located in the mouth of the Limoncito River. From the crawls they are loaded on board the large steamers and shipped to the markets.

Few Shipped to the United States.

It is estimated that not more than 1,000 of these huge turtles have been shipped to the United States, on account of the lack of accom-

modations on steamers. Weekly shipments are made to Colon, Panama, and Kingston, Jamaica.

Recently an agreement was entered into between an American firm and Maduro & Sons, of Port Limon, whereby the former company agreed to buy all turtles available, to be shipped to the United States. Two small shipments already have been made.

OYSTER CULTIVATION BEGUN IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 22.]

An attempt, said to be the first in New Brunswick, to cultivate oysters on a large scale was inaugurated about three years ago by a small group of local capitalists, who formed a company with headquarters at Great Shemogue, in this Province. Already they have invested approximately \$30,000. The company holds under Government lease four areas of beds, three in New Brunswick—at Great Shemogue, 200 acres; at Little Shemogue, 50 acres; and at Port Elgin, 150 acres—and one of 300 acres at River John, Nova Scotia.

The first recovery from these areas was made recently when 100 barrels of oysters were raked at Great Shemogue. In another year it is anticipated that a yield of 1,000 to 2,000 barrels can be taken without risk of damage to the beds.

The company now employs about 50 men in all departments. It owns a steamer, which is used for bringing seed oysters from Richibucto and also in distributing the cultch—the shells and kindred materials upon which the young oyster fastens and remains until removed at maturity. This craft has a keel length of more than 60 feet and cost \$8,000. The company also owns and operates a gasoline launch and a fleet of small boats.

Canning Operations Not Yet Seriously Considered.

The question of establishing an oyster cannery has not yet engaged the serious attention of the company. Its representatives, however, have visited canneries in the United States and have made themselves familiar with the requirements of such establishments. One of the directors intimates that, whereas the large cities of Canada now offer for oysters in the shell excellent markets, which are conveniently accessible on account of the periodical service of insulated cars provided by the railroads, a source of profit may subsequently be found in canning for export.

REDUCED RAINFALL IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 25.]

According to a statement just made by the city engineer of Moncton, the year 1916 has so far developed the lowest rainfall record for the past 18 years, during which the average precipitation, which includes rain and melted snow (10 inches of snow being rated as equal to 1 inch of rain), has been 36 inches. The first 10 months of 1916 show a total precipitation of but 22 inches. There has been practically no rain since July last in this vicinity.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN ALBERTA.

[Vice Consul George E. Bell, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Nov. 24.]

In common with the entire North American continent, western Canada has found the year 1916 less favorable for the production of big crops than was 1915, resulting in a smaller yield per acre and reduced grade of grain in certain localities; but the receipts at terminal points show that most of the high-grade grain from Canada is coming from the Calgary consular district. Large quantities of "lower than contract" grain are being shipped from northern Alberta, but nearly all of the southern Alberta wheat is No. 1, 2, or 3, with the bulk being of the first two grades. It is well known that the varieties grown in Alberta are not usually classed as the hardest of wheats, though the "No. 1 northern" of this Province vies with the "No. 1 hard" of Manitoba not only in price but also in milling quality.

Car Shortage—Financial Returns.

The elevators of the Province are filled to capacity, and there is a great demand for cars to move the grain. It is gathered from press reports that the car shortage in the United States has caused the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern Railways to place an embargo upon the sending of their cars across the line into the United States, on account of their being detained there for the reason that the American roads would rather pay a demurrage charge than return the cars, car space being worth more at this congested stage than the cost of holding. The railway commission has taken the matter up, but it is improbable that much can be done by the commission, as without doubt the railway officials are doing everything humanly possible to alleviate the condition.

The financial returns of the crops have been greater this year than ever before. A wheat crop at present figures would pay the farmer, even supposing he had only an average of 16 bushels per acre, over \$30 per acre. A large number are receiving \$50 per acre, some have received \$75, and a few even more than that. What is believed to be a world's record in wheat production is established by the Crowfoot farm in the Calgary district. In a sworn affidavit it is stated that the yield for a 1,020-acre field was 55,777 bushels, making an average of 54.68 bushels per acre. The Nobleford farm of this Province ran a close second to this record, with a yield of 54.33 bushels per acre for a 1,000-acre field.

Reports received by the Alberta Provincial Department of Agriculture show that there is a large increase in the acreage in Alberta summer-fallowed this year—about 25 per cent more than last year. This insures a large acreage for next year's crop.

Root Crops—Live-Stock Industry.

The raising of root crops is increasing among those engaged in dairy and general live-stock work, and Alberta has begun to export potatoes and various roots instead of importing them, as heretofore. The acreage and yield for Alberta in 1916 are given as: Potatoes, 8,000,000 bushels from 46,000 acres; turnips, 3,500,000 bushels from 16,500 acres; carrots, 600,000 bushels from 3,000 acres; mangolds, 800,000 bushels from 4,000 acres.

The sheep industry is being successfully introduced into Alberta. At a recent auction 3,426 sheep were sold, the proceeds amounting to nearly \$30,000. The 1916 wool clip of the Province is placed at 1,921,860 pounds, and is said to have brought in about \$561,000.

All live stock is in good condition; no epidemics have occurred and there has been less disease of other kinds than usual. Breeding stock is in strong demand. The live-stock report for 1916 in Alberta is as follows: Horses, 621,200; swine, 440,310; sheep, 539,100; dairy cows, 215,033; other cows, 179,200; beef cattle, 209,615; other cattle, 546,176.

The prosperity of the Alberta farmers has had the effect of stimulating business in the urban districts, and merchants report a steady increase in their sales. Bank clearings have been increasing weekly, and for the week ended November 23 Calgary stood fourth among Canadian cities in the amount of clearings.

TESTS CONDUCTED BY BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

Tests of materials and products representing a wide range of industrial processes have been made in the course of recent activities of the United States Bureau of Standards. Engineering instruments, iron pipe, and railroad track scales were among the subjects of such tests.

The bureau has received many requests for the testing of iron pipe. There are no machines in this locality for the complete testing of pipe except those owned by the United States Steel Corporation. There are, however, in this vicinity and through the country many smaller independent pipe-manufacturing corporations. It is from these that requests have been received from time to time for both hydraulic and either tension or compression tests. Owing to lack of facilities the bureau at first referred corporations which desired to have certain tests made to a commercial testing laboratory. The latter, however, found on attempting the work that its machine was not of sufficient capacity, and as a consequence the bureau did the work. An important test was that of two pieces of 6-inch flanged iron pipe in tension.

Interest in Construction and Accuracy of Gauge.

A 3,000-pound gauge to be used by the United States Gauge Co. as a test gauge was calibrated by the bureau at 60 points of its scale. Twenty-one current meters were rated during the month. Thirteen of these instruments were for the use of engineers outside of the Government service. A test-pressure gauge of unusual interest because of its construction and accuracy was calibrated for the makers. This gauge was of the differential piston type using mercury, designed for pressures up to 10,000 pounds per square inch, graduated to 10 pounds, and could be read to 5 pounds.

Three 10,000-pound-pressure gauges were tested for a large steel company. Twelve relief valves for testing fire hose and 12 air gauges and pumps for testing lifeboat air tanks were tested for use by steamboat inspectors.

Test car No. 1 during a month's time tested 46 railroad track scales in Wisconsin. Test car No. 2 tested 20 railroad track scales and 3 master scales in Pennsylvania.

MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 12 leading eastern railroads during September and 9 months ending September, 1915 and 1916, follows:

SEPTEMBER.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			105,480	148,440	105,480	148,440
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			8,421	11,272	8,421	11,272
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			674	477	674	477
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	467	286	1,487	1,933	1,954	2,219
Erie.....	721,394	510,682	126,908	113,449	848,302	624,131
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			90	109	90	109
Pennsylvania.....	404,371	455,339	378,936	603,780	783,307	1,062,119
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....			483	86	483	86
Virginian.....	50		343	174	393	174
Western Maryland.....			23,911	31,159	23,911	31,159
Total.....	1,126,282	966,307	646,733	913,879	1,773,015	1,880,136
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,597,742	2,517,651	600,472	518,120	3,198,214	3,035,771
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	669,931	860,682	7,854	1,638	677,785	862,320
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	114,831	127,222			114,831	127,222
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,987,871	1,903,208	175,087	253,203	2,162,958	2,156,411
Erie.....	13,630	16,692	679,985	689,620	693,615	706,312
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	67,556	85,128	27,870	27,236	95,426	112,364
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	568,045	595,926			568,045	595,926
Norfolk & Western.....	2,229,993	2,192,486	429,101	539,598	2,659,094	2,732,084
Pennsylvania.....	3,529,833	3,487,175	371,569	459,649	3,901,402	3,946,824
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	168,117	214,220	833	1,041	168,950	215,261
Virginian.....	319,108	407,761	55,232	83,772	374,340	491,533
Western Maryland.....	317,215	321,585	480,591	526,710	797,806	848,295
Total.....	12,583,872	12,729,736	2,828,594	3,100,587	15,412,466	15,830,323
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
Erie.....	20,539	15,367			20,539	15,367
Pennsylvania.....	6,333	11,751	13,106	12,935	19,439	24,686
Total.....	26,872	27,118	13,106	12,935	39,978	40,053
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	354,952	509,596	9,228	15,519	364,180	525,115
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	50,161	62,326			50,161	62,326
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	8,900	8,263			8,900	8,263
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	169,598	188,688			169,598	188,688
Erie.....	136,206	122,448	247,652	133,826	383,858	260,274
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	1,920	2,637			1,920	2,637
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	277,530	193,763			277,530	193,763
Norfolk & Western.....	213,501	203,202	37,626	47,633	251,127	250,835
Pennsylvania.....	1,004,878	601,738		7	1,004,878	601,745
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	7,303	7,331			7,303	7,331
Virginian.....	50,408	29,189	29	71	50,437	29,260
Western Maryland.....	49,599	50,870	2,597	205	52,196	51,075
Total.....	2,294,956	1,960,051	297,132	197,261	2,592,088	2,177,317
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	234,471	280,770	109,214	76,207	334,685	356,977
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	30,536	28,824	13,586	13,028	50,122	41,852

SEPTEMBER—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL—continued.						
<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	48,951	38,530			48,951	38,530
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	18,304	35,088	12,062	7,981	30,366	43,069
Erie.....			95,094	110,571	95,094	110,571
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	7,902	2,281	58	151	7,960	2,432
Norfolk & Western.....	76,284	147,341	99	7,135	76,383	154,476
Pennsylvania.....	875,478	880,081	277,190	285,913	1,152,668	1,165,994
Virginian.....				26		26
Western Maryland.....	5,849	6,976	39,499	9,843	45,348	16,819
Total.....	1,301,775	1,419,891	537,802	510,855	1,839,577	1,930,746

NINE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Anthracite:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....			896,778	1,088,660	896,778	1,088,660
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			111,386	120,584	111,386	120,584
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			4,648	4,759	4,648	4,759
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,550	1,034	9,948	10,918	11,498	11,952
Erie.....	5,627,443	5,833,708	1,135,304	1,108,597	6,762,747	6,942,305
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			339	574	339	574
Pennsylvania.....	4,068,163	4,321,813	3,526,437	4,508,054	7,594,600	8,829,867
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....			7,760	8,570	7,760	8,570
Virginian.....	418	186	1,063	2,577	1,481	2,763
Western Maryland.....			239,027	256,460	239,027	256,460
Total.....	9,697,574	10,156,741	5,932,690	7,109,753	15,630,264	17,266,494
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	19,437,752	21,776,731	4,737,592	5,049,018	24,175,344	26,825,749
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	5,331,649	7,030,753	46,303	27,063	5,377,952	7,057,816
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	748,052	1,129,370	240	126	748,292	1,129,496
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	15,400,570	18,487,903	1,171,725	1,902,540	16,572,295	20,390,443
Erie.....	144,599	158,569	4,616,982	6,256,955	4,761,581	6,415,524
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	506,899	604,281	505,633	266,063	712,582	870,344
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	4,491,339	5,780,972			4,491,339	5,780,972
Norfolk & Western.....	16,801,980	19,170,311	2,500,062	4,239,558	19,302,042	23,409,869
Pennsylvania.....	28,684,853	31,997,581	2,919,624	4,525,719	31,604,477	36,523,300
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....	1,603,269	2,227,376	5,620	6,327	1,608,889	2,233,703
Virginian.....	2,559,575	3,442,447	356,129	560,772	2,915,704	4,003,219
Western Maryland.....	2,498,704	2,763,188	3,841,199	3,640,848	6,339,903	6,404,036
Total.....	98,209,241	114,569,482	20,401,659	26,474,989	118,610,900	141,044,471
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....			142	36	142	36
Erie.....	197,497	143,949	754	145	198,251	144,094
Pennsylvania.....	92,800	101,199	139,466	135,308	232,326	236,507
Total.....	290,357	245,148	140,362	135,489	430,719	380,637
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	3,143,195	4,280,789	83,220	118,174	3,226,415	4,400,963
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	405,054	541,785			405,054	541,785

NINE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
FOR COMPANY FUEL—contd.						
Bituminous—Continued.	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Buffalo & Susquehanna ..	69,424	50,652	.....	.....	69,424	80,652
Chesapeake & Ohio	1,477,951	1,612,169	.....	.....	1,477,951	1,612,169
Erie	1,252,031	1,048,323	1,397,488	1,451,135	2,649,519	2,499,458
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain ..	21,591	24,789	.....	.....	21,591	24,789
New York Central (Buffalo and east) ..	2,056,119	1,846,096	.....	.....	2,056,119	1,846,096
Norfolk & Western	1,607,675	1,938,820	213,807	391,837	2,021,482	2,330,657
Pennsylvania	5,851,145	5,960,642	178	718	5,851,323	5,961,360
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern ..	63,279	96,727	.....	.....	63,279	96,727
Virginian	178,559	205,350	348	27,692	178,907	233,042
Western Maryland	410,211	433,065	5,544	36,626	415,755	469,721
Total	16,734,234	18,060,237	1,700,585	2,026,185	18,434,819	20,086,422
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio	1,939,649	2,549,254	744,273	747,756	2,683,922	3,297,010
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh ..	309,756	294,096	89,557	121,103	399,313	415,201
Buffalo & Susquehanna	439,304	347,347	.....	.....	439,304	347,347
Chesapeake & Ohio	92,241	320,900	95,139	77,501	187,380	398,441
Erie .....	.....	.....	810,381	891,657	810,381	891,657
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain ..	50,684	55,308	691	4,358	51,375	59,666
Norfolk & Western	661,051	1,464,648	7,227	71,068	668,278	1,535,716
Pennsylvania	6,232,364	8,413,253	2,144,144	2,434,977	8,376,508	10,848,230
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern ..	.....	.....	.....	70	.....	70
Virginian .....	.....	.....	.....	56	.....	56
Western Maryland	40,516	67,817	193,011	104,132	233,527	171,949
Total	9,765,565	13,512,625	4,064,423	4,452,668	13,849,988	17,965,293

NOTE.—Totals do not include amounts of coal received by the New York Central Railroad from connections.

PANAMA PERMITS USE OF CERTAIN SLOT MACHINES.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Nov. 16.]

The President of Panama, in a resolution dated September 26, 1916, approves the use of certain coin or slot machines in business houses in Panama. The machines permitted are for the sale of chewing gum, and the resolution states that an examination shows that they can not be used for games of luck or chance, prohibited by the constitution and law, but that the player knows beforehand that he is to get a package of chewing gum upon depositing a 5-cent nickel coin, and at times a premium of from 2 to 20 chips of a nominal value of 5 cents gold, valid for the purchase of merchandise only. The resolution closes as follows:

It is resolved to permit the use of said automatic machines in commercial establishments for the sale of chewing gum and merchandise, provided no changes are introduced tending to turn them into games of luck or chance, and merchants obligate themselves to receive at their nominal value in the sale of merchandise the chips purchasers receive as premiums.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the governors of Panama and Colon, in order that these officials, in accordance with article 149 of the Political and Municipal Code, may authorize the respective municipal councils to fix a tax for the use of said machines.

NECESSITY FOR DIRECT REPRESENTATION IN BILBAO.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Bilbao, Spain, Oct. 30.]

The consular district of Bilbao, embracing the entire coast of the Bay of Biscay and that part of the Atlantic Ocean from Corunna to Portugal, and the great industrial region of Spain, emphasizes the need for direct factory representation. The volume of business done is large enough to justify representation and the advantages innumerable. The plan of giving exclusive agency to some one firm dealing in the product results in only obtaining sufficient volume for the individual necessities of the agent, as the other dealers will not buy from a competitor. Representation by a broker or comisionista, as a rule, means that in the event of disputes or claims the broker will side with the buyer. The direct representative can sell the entire trade, investigate credit standings, protect his firm in the case of disputes, and adjust the many points that come up in the course of all business transactions. The firm that sells through correspondence is at the buyer's mercy unless it demands "cash before shipment," which usually eliminates much desirable business, for the buyer can and often does make demands for rebate or allowance, backed by the threat or refusal to pay draft and accept shipment. The seller then finds himself with his merchandise on his hands several thousand miles from his plant without anyone to protect his interests or with the alternative of conceding an unjust allowance which may absorb more than the profits of the deal. It seems logical that the additional volume of trade, the security, and the protection would more than pay the expenses of the factory representative.

NEW WOOL WASHERY FOR PORT ELIZABETH.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Oct. 25.]

A wool-washing plant is to be established in Port Elizabeth, the machinery for which is now being shipped from America. The plant will consist of two washing machines, two dryers, and a duster, and will be capable of handling 35,000 pounds of wool per day of 10 hours.

With the prevailing high freight rates it is essential to eliminate waste before shipping.

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NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 12	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, A mherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendall, Woolworth Build- ing, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

MELTING CHINESE BRASS COINS.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Oct. 24.]

A serious situation in Chinese monetary matters is being developed by the export from China, particularly to Japan, of Chinese brass "cash," the characteristic coins with square holes in the center that have been the basis of all trade in the interior of China for many generations. The rise in the price of copper has rendered these brass coins, which usually contain about 89 per cent of copper, more valuable as metal than as a medium of exchange.

For a time over 6,000 tons of the coins were exported monthly to Japan alone. A fall in the price of copper reduced shipments to about half this quantity, but the export continues, and now at various points in the interior of China the number of cash in circulation is far below the requirements of the people, and difficulty is being experienced in carrying on ordinary trade. In parts of South China, Chinese 1-cent pieces now exchange for only 5 cash, instead of 10 cash that usually is considered a standard rate of exchange. The cash have been bringing about \$25 local currency, or something like \$12.50 gold, per picul of 133½ pounds. In Japan they have been

valued at the equivalent of \$15 gold. Japanese newspapers report that the refined copper is being exported to the United States.

The business of buying up and melting these coins has been so large and so profitable that a monopoly thereof was one of the considerations proposed for a recent Sino-Japanese loan. The fact that a single Japanese firm is in the market for 3,000,000 piculs (200,000 short tons) indicates something of the enormous quantity of such coins in China. At the same time the monetary requirements of a vast population like that of China are in proportion, and the melting up of such coins disturbs the balance of supply and demand. The first effect will be to increase prices locally in terms of cash—the medium on which Chinese production of goods for export primarily is based—and it is likely therefore to have a marked effect on foreign exports.

MARKET FOR DRY GOODS AND NOTIONS IN CHILE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Nov. 3.]

The dry goods retail houses in the northern cities of Chile make the principal part of their purchases in the two large cities of Valparaiso and Santiago, but will also import directly part of their stock. This is especially true of small articles that can be imported by parcel post. In this part of Chile such articles as notions, dress trimmings, articles of children's wear, etc., are handled in separate establishments from the ones that sell piece goods for dresses, although many of the dry goods stores, but not all, also handle notions, etc. These small stores handle the major part of the retail trade in their lines, and are constant importers by parcel post. For such articles as can well be sent by parcel post that method of shipping is preferred, as losses by pilfering are less than with packages sent as regular cargo. Parcel post shipments valued at £5 (\$24.33) or over should be covered by consular invoices as are regular shipments.

Some American lines of piece goods are well and favorably known, and since the war some of the smaller articles of notions, etc., have found sale, replacing European articles not now obtainable.

American dealers desiring to build up an export trade should be impressed with the importance of complying to the letter with agreements made by their representatives.

[A list of dealers in dry goods and notions in Antofagasta and Iquique can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82238.]

Consul Henry S. Culver, of St. John, New Brunswick, reports that recent statistics show that there are some 39,000 people engaged in agriculture in that Canadian Province, 36,000 of whom own their own farms. The land available for farm settlement amounts to 10,718,000 acres, but only 4,538,000 acres are under cultivation.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Aluminum-----	23183	Machinery, oil extracting-----	23184
Antimony-----	23183	Nickel-----	23183
Babbitt metals-----	23183	Oils-----	23186
Blackplates-----	23183	Packing materials-----	23191
Bulbs, electric-----	23188	Piano parts-----	23190
Carpet cleaners-----	23187	Sheets, galvanized-----	23183
Chemicals-----	23186	Steel-----	23189
Copper-----	23183	Tin and tinplates-----	23183
Drugs-----	23186	Veneers-----	23190
Lead-----	23183	Wine-----	23192
Lumber-----	23190	Wire-----	23192
Machinery, electrotyping-----	23185		

23182.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to purchase California wine, to be packed in barrels of from 100 to 200 liters. Quotations to be made c. i. f. Bordeaux or Cette. Payment to be made in cash against documents. Correspondence in English, French, or German. References.

23183.†—A firm in Sweden desires to be placed in communication with American exporters of copper, aluminum, tin, lead, antimony, nickel, babbitt metals, tinplates, blackplates, galvanized sheets, bright annealed and galvanized-iron wire.

23184.‡—A man in Porto Rico desires to communicate with an American manufacturer of a coconut-oil extracting apparatus. An illustration of the machine desired may be inspected at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Miscel. No. 169.) References.

23185.*—A man in Spain desires catalogues of all kinds of electrotyping machinery, with complete information as to prices, etc. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination if possible. References. Correspondence in Spanish. A cash payment of 25 per cent will be made with the order and balance against documents in foreign country.

23186.†—An exporting agent in New York wishes to export chemicals to Sweden and desires samples of all kinds of chemicals, oils, drugs, etc., with full information as to deliveries, packing, etc. Payment to be made in cash f. o. b. New York. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23187.*—A firm in France would like to be placed in touch with American manufacturers of electric carpet cleaners. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made in cash against documents. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23188.†—A firm in Gibraltar is in the market for electric bulbs for 16, 25, and 50 candlepower lamps, fitted with standard Edison screw caps of 114 volts. It is also in the market for all kinds of electric appliances.

23189.†—A surgical-instrument manufacturer in Japan desires to purchase carbon steel for surgical instruments and would like to have the price per ton for standard sizes. Time of delivery should be stated.

23190.*—A firm in New Zealand is in the market for lumber and veneers suitable for piano construction, iron frames for pianos, piano sound boards, actions, keys, player actions, and all brass and nickel-plated ware used in constructing pianos. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made against documents in New York. Reference.

23191.*—A chocolate-manufacturing firm in Switzerland desires to purchase iron bands, nails, safety cramp iron, and all kinds of sheet metal used for packing chocolate, in large quantities. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Payment will be made in cash against documents in foreign country. Correspondence in English, French, or German. References.

DEC 12 1916

PRINCETON, N. J.

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No. 286 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 6 1916

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FRENCH COCOON HARVEST OF 1916.

[Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 23.]

The silk cocoon harvest of 1916 in France, as estimated by the Lyon Union of Silk Merchants, is 6,147,100 pounds, as compared with 3,808,100 pounds in 1915, an increase of 61.42 per cent. The yields of the chief producing Departments in the last two years were:

Departments.	1915	1916
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Ardèche.....	1,171,225	1,739,100
Drôme.....	339,000	739,925
Gard.....	1,223,500	2,036,100
Var.....	331,675	456,650
Vaucluse.....	229,375	496,300
All other.....	519,325	679,025
Total.....	3,808,100	6,147,100

[The returns of the 1914 and 1915 French cocoon harvests were given in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 21, 1915.]

STATE CONTROL OF SUGAR CONSUMPTION IN ITALY.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 23.]

A decree has been issued for the Government control of the consumption of sugar in Italy, under which a commission is created at the Ministry of Agriculture to regulate the consumption of sugar, and a Government commissioner will be appointed at all factories, refineries, etc., which produce sugar. Without the authorization of these officials no goods can be dispatched or delivered.

The commission will determine the amount of sugar to be assigned monthly to each Province, both for direct consumption and for industrial purposes. The local authorities are in their turn charged with the distribution of sugar in the districts which they administer. The manufacture of any products containing sugar is forbidden unless a special license, for which a tax has to be paid, has been obtained.

CROP CONDITIONS IN HONDURAS.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Ceiba, Nov. 15.]

Perhaps the best indication of the prospect for a large banana crop next year in this locality is the promise that the carrying capacity of the steamship line serving Ceiba will be increased approximately one-third by the purchase of another ship. All of the business to and from this port is in the hands of Vaccaro Bros. & Co., of Ceiba and New Orleans. This firm now operates three steamships, which carry from 60,000 to 75,000 stems of bananas to a cargo. During the height of the season they give Ceiba three boats in seven or eight days, but in the season just closed it was found impossible to carry all the fruit offered, and it is estimated that next year there will be an increase of about 20 per cent in the crop.

The area in bananas tributary to Ceiba is approximately 62,000 acres, a considerable part of which will give its first yield during the coming season. The banana fincas (plantations) in general have been well cared for during the past year and their yield will show an increase. On an average, the yield is from 200 to 285 bunches per acre. There are four months, corresponding to the winter season in the United States, or, say, October, November, December, and January, when the yield is about one-half as heavy as it is during the other eight months.

Price of Banana Land—Storm Damage—Coconut Yield.

As to the value of bearing banana fincas, the leading growers put it at \$35 to \$50 gold an acre, and of the land when it is worn out for banana growing at \$23 gold an acre. Raw land, covered with timber and undergrowth, which must be cleared off, is held at \$3.50 gold an acre. Clearing, while variable in cost according to the nature of the land, is estimated at \$8 gold an acre. These prices may be considered very conservative, inasmuch as the firm quoted is not selling, but is constantly adding to its holdings, and much higher prices are often asked (and probably paid) for lands, although transactions are few and there is no industry in the handling of real estate. Holders generally show an inclination to improve or to hold for investment.

The heavy winds of a month ago caused damage to banana fincas in some localities, but not to so great an extent as at first was reported. It is now placed at about 100,000 bunches of fruit. Some coconut trees were uprooted in the Bay Islands, and considerable damage was caused to other crops, especially plantains—on which account, and also because of interruption of traffic by stormy weather, there has been a shortage of plantains in Ceiba, the production of this crop on the mainland falling far short of local requirements.

The yield of coconuts is steadily increasing. The bulk of this crop still comes from the Bay Islands, which now produce about 10,000,000 nuts a year. Planting is going on apace both in the islands and on the mainland. There are at least 90,000 trees now planted near Ceiba, of which 20,000 are in bearing; and but a short distance to the east of Ceiba, but beyond rail communication, the beach is bordered for miles with coconut palms. It takes five or six years for coconut trees to bear, but once they begin to produce they continue bearing for a long time. A coconut walk in full production is worth up to \$225 or \$250 gold an acre. The trees are set out at the rate of 80 or 82

to the acre, and they should average from 150 to 200 nuts each annually, but the actual production varies greatly. There is little trouble here from pests or diseases.

Sugar Production.

The local sugar mill has enjoyed a very prosperous season. It had a capacity to grind 750 tons of cane daily, and this is now being increased to 1,000 tons daily. Next year (1917) grinding will begin on February 1, considerably earlier than this year, the run for which amounted to 54,000 tons. The output was 10,000,000 pounds of sugar (of which 7,596,000 pounds were exported to the United States), 137,288 gallons of alcohol, 24,891 gallons of aguardiente, and whisky, cognac, and gin, worth \$12,600 gold, exported to other countries of Central America. The company grows most of its own cane, having approximately 2,100 acres, while independent planters have about 560 acres. For next season's cutting there will be about 3,550 acres.

Last season the yield averaged approximately 20.3 tons of cane to the acre, although one tract of 26 acres gave about 63 tons per acre. The sugar yield averaged 3,800 pounds to the acre. At the height of the season the industry gave employment to 1,000 men. Common labor is paid \$1.25 gold per day, but much of the cane cutting is done under contract. Planting is still being done for next season's cut.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN UNITED PROVINCES.

The Director of Industries of the United Provinces, Cawnpore, India, has supplied the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce with an interesting account of the ninth meeting of the board of industries. Encouraging progress has been made in the various activities that come within the board's purview, one of the problems recently solved being the elimination of the bitter flavor from mahua (illipe) oil. The commencement of leather-button making was reported, as was also the initiation of two peripatetic schools of weaving. These schools have already proved popular. The first group of weavers, passed out after three months' training, are said to be earning 12 to 13 annas (24 to 26 cents) a day, as compared with 4 to 5 annas before training. The schools having moved on to other districts, the first two districts to which they were allotted have submitted proposals for the establishment of fixed local schools, for which they are willing to pay half the cost.

The establishment of a supply depot in connection with the Central Weaving Institute, for supplying yarn, bobbins, shuttles, reeds, healds, etc., at reasonable prices, was reported to the board, the Government having advanced 3,000 rupees (about \$1,000) for the purpose.

The Government experimental dyeing class at Cawnpore having proved its real utility, the board framed a recommendation for the placing of the class upon a permanent footing as a recognized technical school. The board also recommended that special attention should be given to the development of the tanning industry in India as to both quantity and quality. A better selection of hides, with better tannage, would permit a much larger percentage of Indian hides to be used for the British trade.

Matters pertaining to the glass and bangle industry, indigenous dyestuffs, the perfume industry, and the operations of the Central Emporium were also discussed.

DETAILS OF FUR TRADE AT NIZHNI NOVGOROD FAIR.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Nov. 20.]

The fur trade at the fair at Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, was much handicapped this year by the small quantities of furs brought from Siberia, the lack of dyed furs, and the lack of American furs. Furthermore, the manufacturers could not get sufficient workmen for dressing skins, and the small quantities of dressed and manufactured goods at the fair brought high prices. On the whole high prices were the rule on account of the demand for furs for Russia and Siberia and the large amount of free money for the trade.

Demand, Prices, etc., of Various Furs—Sable, Marten, and Mink.

Details of the market for the various kinds of furs offered for sale at the fair are as follows. Prices given in rubles have not been converted to American currency because of the fluctuations in the exchange value of the ruble. The normal exchange value is \$0.515; the current rate is about \$0.30. One hundred kopecks are equivalent to 1 ruble.

Sable.—As expected, only a few lots of original sable skins were brought to the fair, and these were mostly light sorts. Amursky sables sold at 60 to 65 rubles, Tobolsky sables at 50 rubles, and Sinsiner sables sold at 90 rubles.

Marten.—These skins were in good demand, and mostly sold for Russia. Vyatky baum martens were sold at 19 to 20 rubles, Ufimsky at 21 to 25 rubles, Armenian at 17 to 17.50 rubles, and stone martens at 16 to 20 rubles.

Mink.—Mostly sold for Russia. Prices were charged upon a basis of winter skins, and amounted to 10 to 13 rubles per skin.

Kolinsky, Ermine, and Fitch.

Kolinsky.—The quantity of these skins was small, large transactions having been done before the fair. At the end of the fair demand slackened. Prices were as follows: Manchurians, 2 rubles; Amursky, 1.50 rubles; Tarsky and Tomsy, 2.50 rubles.

Ermine.—These skins, although in restricted quantity, were mostly sold for the home trade. The better grades fetched high prices. Ishimsky sold at 5.50 to 6 rubles, Petropavlovsky at 4.50 to 5.50 rubles, Petchorsky at 4.75 to 5 rubles, Berosovsky at 4.75 to 5.20 rubles, Barnoulsky at 4.75 rubles, Archangelsky at 4 to 4.50 rubles, Tomsy at 4.50 rubles, Bashirsky at 3.70 rubles, Yakutsky at 3 rubles, and western Russian at 2.50 rubles.

Fitch.—Black raw were few and bought for Russia at 6 rubles; black dressed selected skins sold at 12 rubles. For raw white fitch there was a good demand at 1.50 to 2 rubles.

Squirrel Skins and Linings.

Squirrel skins, dressed.—As many buyers had bought larger quantities of dressed skins before the fair and as there is a scarcity of labor, only a small quantity of dressed goods was brought to the fair (about one-third the quantity of last year).

The prices of dressed skins, cased, were as follows: Yakutsky, 80 kopecks; Lensky, 56½ to 60 kopecks; Obsky, 48 to 50 kopecks; Zavodsky, 40 to 42 kopecks.

Squirrel backs, dressed.—Kargopolsky sold at 27 to 35 kopecks, Zavodsky at 37 to 38 kopecks, and Obsky at 42 kopecks.

Squirrel belly linings.—Only small quantities were offered and were eagerly bought for abroad, at the following prices: Zavodsky, 12 rubles; Obsky, 13 rubles; Altaisky, 13.50 rubles; Nertchinsky, 16 to 18 rubles.

Squirrel back linings.—Nearly all sold for the home trade at the following prices: Seven rows Russian (Gorbivursky "red backs"), 50 to 62 rubles; seven rows Zavodsky, 68 rubles; seven rows Lensky, 80 rubles; seven rows Nertchinsky, 88 rubles; seven rows Yakutsky, 90 rubles; seven rows Kalimsky, 92 rubles; seven rows Argunsky, 94 rubles; seven rows Tchikoisky, 96 rubles; eight rows Argunsky, 135 rubles; eight rows and better sorts, 140 to 165 rubles; lower backs (12 rows), 170 to 250 rubles; Kargopolsky, six rows, linings, backs, and belly, 50 rubles a pair.

Squirrel skins, raw.—Although it was difficult to get skins dressed, nearly all the raw skins were sold to Russian manufacturers. Prices were about 10 per cent higher for light sorts and 15 to 20 per cent higher for dark sorts than at the Irbit fair of this year, and were as follows: Petchorsky, 36 to 38 kopecks; Obsky, 40 to 42 kopecks; Lensky, 49 kopecks; Yakutsky, 62 to 65 kopecks; Kamtchatsky, 67 to 71 kopecks; and Argunsky, 73 kopecks.

Squirrel tails.—Small lots of Russian and Obsky tails were sold at 225 to 250 rubles per pood (36.1128 pounds); Kargopolsky, 225 to 230 rubles per pood. Dark tails were offered at 500 rubles, but there were no transactions.

Market for Fox Skins.

Silver fox.—Very few skins, which were bought for Russia, sold at 300 to 2,500 rubles per skin.

Blue fox.—Very few skins bought for export; sold for 50 to 400 rubles per skin.

Cross fox.—Only about 150 skins were brought to the fair, which were sold at 30 to 50 rubles each.

Red fox.—There was only a small demand for these skins, as large quantities are lying unsold abroad. At the end of the fair a few lots of the cheaper grades were sold at the following prices: Karaganka, 5 to 9 rubles per pair; Karaganka, selected, 11 rubles per pair; Western Russian, 15 rubles per pair; Mongolian, 11 to 12 rubles per pair; Ufimsky, 14.25 rubles per skin; Archangel, Kazan, and Vologda, 18 to 20 rubles per skin; Finnish, 22 rubles per skin; Tobolsky, 20 rubles per skin. Owing to the high prices asked for the better grades of Siberian skins, only a few Kamtchatka were sold at 35 rubles, and no transactions were completed in Yakutsky foxes.

White fox.—Obdorsky and Sourgoutsky, 80 per cent with tails, sold at 35.50; a few lots of the foregoing, all with tails, 40 rubles; some small lots of Yakutsky, with tails, 45 rubles; Petchorsky, with half tails, 38 rubles. Most of the Yakutsky and Yeniseisky skins did not arrive in time for the fair; they will probably be offered in Moscow.

Lynx, Wolverine, Persian Lamb, and Broadtail.

Lynx.—Mostly bought for China, at 20 to 25 rubles per skin.

Wolverine.—There was a very fair demand for these skins, all sold for export. Prices were, for original lots, 30 to 40 rubles; for some selected skins, 50 rubles.

Persian lamb.—The low prices offered for Persian lamb last year caused this article to sell well in Russia this year. Most of the stocks having been exhausted, there was a very good demand for fresh skins at the fair for the home trade, but prices were much higher. About 2,500 bales were sold, the selected Jacketni sorts at 165 to 190 rubles per 10 skins, Jacketni Moscovski from 145 to 165 rubles per 10 skins, and II Jacketni from 100 to 300 rubles per 10 skins. Gray Persian lambs were all sold for Russia at 25 to 35 rubles.

Broadtail.—There was a very good demand for these skins at the beginning of the fair. At the end, the demand having slackened, prices were lower, so that lots were sold at 90 to 112 rubles per 10 skins.

Sheepskins, Mouffon, Colt Skins, and Badger.

Sheepskins.—Only a small quantity was offered. Kalmitsky sold at 1.50 rubles; Petrowsky, 2 to 2.40 rubles.

Mouffon.—Orenburgsky and Astrakhansky sold at 10.50 to 11 rubles a pair; linings at 20 to 30 rubles.

Colt skins.—Original lots of Russian skins sold at 2.50 to 2.75 rubles per skin; selected skins in dark colors, at 4.25 rubles.

Badger.—Good demand, sold for export. Original lots were sold 2.30 to 3 rubles per skin.

Wolf, Tiger, White Hares, Etc.

Wolf.—These skins did not sell well. Medium sorts were sold at 13.50 rubles; some better skins at 16 rubles; Truhkanski, at 22 to 30 rubles. Only small lots, for which there was a good demand, sold at 28 to 35 rubles.

Tiger.—There were very few skins. Prices ranged from 150 to 399 rubles.

White hares.—There was a good demand for these skins. The price for firsts was 1.05 rubles; for seconds, 90 kopecks; for thirds, 65 kopecks per skin.

Marmots.—There were no transactions.

Catskins.—There were a few skins, raw. Russian skins sold at 25 to 30 kopecks and Siberian at 63 to 70 kopecks. Linings sold about 20 per cent dearer than last year.

Bear hides.—There was a very good demand for these skins, which sold at 20 to 30 rubles.

Otter skins.—A small quantity was sold at 30 to 35 rubles.

New Limitation of Sable Trapping.

During the fair a meeting of fur dealers was held, at which representatives of different departments of the Government participated, to discuss a proposition made by a number of Russian and Siberian fur dealers, which was supported by the Fur Society of Commerce and Industry of Moscow. This proposition was to prolong for three years the prohibition of trapping sables, but it could not be carried through, as the Government had previously decided not to extend the period of this law. On the other hand, the Government has established in Siberia three districts where an area of about 1,000,000 dessiatines (2,700,000 acres) has been limited on which the trapping of sables will be prohibited for a time, so as to preserve the growth of these animals.

[A preliminary article on the fur trade at the Nizhni fair was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 1, 1916.]

FARM-TRACTOR DEMONSTRATION IN BRAZIL.

[Commercial Agent Frank H. von Motz, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 25.]

At the invitation of a Rio de Janeiro importing firm I recently went to Campos, in the sugar zone of the State of Rio de Janeiro, to witness the working of an American tractor and plow which this company was sending there for demonstration. The soil of that district is a heavy clay, very sticky when wet, and as there had been much rain the demonstration was first delayed because of the condition of the field and then interrupted by a heavy shower; but the trial went far enough to show me wherein the manufacturer of the tractor had failed to do his part.

In the first place, the tractor was a new line for this firm to carry, yet the only instructions furnished with the machine were printed in English. As neither the mechanic nor anyone connected with the demonstration was acquainted with that language it was necessary for me to translate the instructions in order that the work might proceed.

In the second place, no extra spark plugs were sent with the tractor. The mechanic detailed to conduct the demonstration had never seen a tractor before, and when the motor would not fire the first time he was certain there was something wrong with the magneto and wanted to take it apart and adjust it. I advised against this, and by going over the engine carefully I discovered that the porcelains of one of the spark plugs had been cracked and that it would not fire the motor under a load. As it is hard to find spark plugs here outside the cities, especially those with American threads, an effort was made to adjust the broken part; but when the tractor, with only one cylinder firing, got stuck twice in the mud the uselessness of further dallying became apparent, and a new spark plug was obtained, but only after a great deal of trouble. With the new spark plug in place and the carburetor adjusted the tractor started off without any difficulty.

Lack of Instructions Handicaps Introduction of New Machines.

Unless fully informed regarding its assembling and operation, the Brazilian importer of a new farm appliance might easily become discouraged, as he often has to depend on unskilled help to do the actual work of setting up and running his new machine. If he has not received full information from the manufacturer in a language he can understand, he can not give instructions to his men. Such trials as the one referred to above are very expensive, and if one or two do not result successfully the importer is inclined not to have anything further to do with the educational work that must proceed the introduction of new agricultural methods demanding new and modern machinery.

Any prejudice the importer may have regarding the introduction of new implements would be largely overcome if the manufacturer, in sending out a new appliance, would write a long letter of explanation, setting forth in detail the functions of the machine. The letter should tell of the different parts of the machine, how to assemble them, and what to avoid in putting them together; how to make adjustments under generally recognized conditions of use; how to take care of the machine; and how to get the best service out of it. Such a letter a manufacturer could make serve many purposes, if written with some personal feeling in it and in a language its recipient understands.

COAL MINING IN SILESIA.

[Vice Consul Ernest L. Ives, Breslau, Germany, Sept. 30.]

The Province of Silesia has an area of 15,574 square miles, or 7.64 per cent of the total area of Germany. The population, according to the census of December 1, 1910, was 5,225,962, or 8.05 per cent of the total population of Germany. The large population of the Province is due to the intensive industry that predominates in the southeast corner of Upper Silesia and in the southern part of Middle and Lower Silesia, which district is known as the Waldenburg-Neurode industrial center. Both districts have large mining industries.

The Upper Silesian fields form a part of the coal region that extends over Prussian, Russian, and Austrian territory. Of the total coal fields in Upper Silesia, 1,081 square miles, or 48.6 per cent, belong to Prussia; 972 square miles, or 43.5 per cent, to Austria-Hungary; and 169 square miles, or 7.9 per cent, to Russia. In 1911 there were 58 coal mines, producing 37,000,000 tons, belonging to Prussia; 45 mines, producing 9,600,000 tons, belonging to Austria-Hungary; and 31 mines, with an output of 4,800,000 tons, belonging to Russia.

Deposits in Prussian Territory—Mines in Lower Silesia.

The amount of coal in seams of 11.8 inches or more in thickness in Prussian territory is estimated to be 166 billion tons, 68 per cent, or 114 billion tons, of which is worth mining.

There are 60 billion tons, or 85 per cent, at a depth of 3,281 feet. With a yearly output of 75 million tons, the coal will last for at least 800 years. The opening of the seams to a greater depth would prolong the duration of the coal.

There are 30 shafts that reach a depth of 3,281 feet and more. The deepest shaft is located near Czuchow, Upper Silesia, and has a depth of 7,346, and another shaft is more than 6,562 feet deep.

In the Lower Silesian coal region, however, conditions are not so favorable. The coal-bearing rock has not the thickness of that in Upper Silesia, and the coal veins are neither very deep nor abundant; seams of over 3 feet in thickness are rare. The coal worth mining is lower than in Upper Silesia, consequently the working is not so profitable, and in spite of minor depth the work is more difficult on account of a continuous dislocation of rocks. The total amount of coal worth mining in Lower Silesia is estimated at about 3 billion metric tons.

The following table gives the names of the mines operated in Lower Silesia in 1912, the number of mines, workmen, and yearly production:

Names of mines.	Number of mines.	Number of workmen.	Production (metric tons).
Cons. Fürstensteiner Grube.....	1	5,611	1,196,734
Cons. Wenceslaus Grube.....	1	2,283	564,305
Neuroder Kohlen-und Tonwerke.....	3	2,827	443,677
Steinkohlenbergwerk von Kulmiz.....	1	1,774	388,900
Cons. Seegen-Gottesgrube.....	1	715	130,065
Cons. Sophiengrube.....	1	597	144,063
Neue cons. Caesargrube.....	1	426	90,282
Vereinigte Glückhoff-Friedens-Hoffnunggrube.....	1	5,557	1,064,100
Cons. Fuchsgrube.....	1	3,870	796,795
Behlesche Kohlen-und Cokes-Werke.....	2	3,472	635,851
Cons. Abendröthe-Grube.....	1	1,330	257,665
Steinkohlenbergwerk David.....	1	663	165,233
Total.....	15	29,145	5,931,530

^a Besides 133,750 tons of fireproof slate.

Statistics of State and Privately Owned Mines in Upper Silesia.

The Upper Silesian coal mines are owned and operated by the Prussian Government and 22 private concerns. The following table shows the names of the concerns, the number of coal mines and workmen, with the total production in 1912:

Owner.	Number of mines.	Number of workmen.	Production (tons).
Prussian State.....	4	21, 137	7, 008, 868
Georg von Glesches Erben.....	3	12, 541	4, 225, 195
Kattowitzer A. G. einschliessl. Preussenger.....	6	11, 972	4, 225, 251
Verein. Königs- und Laurahütte A. G.	4	10, 997	3, 490, 604
Gräfl. Schaffgotsch Werke.....	3	6, 580	2, 676, 002
Hohenlohe Werke A. G.	5	7, 280	2, 287, 586
Gräfl. von Ballestremsche Verwaltung.....	3	6, 071	2, 272, 227
Fürstl. von Donnersmarcksche Verwaltung.....	3	5, 607	2, 189, 267
Gräfl. von Henckel Donnersmarcksche Verwaltung.....	4	5, 798	2, 101, 567
Donnersmarckhütte A. G.	2	5, 195	1, 859, 571
Rybniker Steinkohlen-Gewerkschaft.....	3	4, 986	1, 678, 654
Fürstl. Pless'sche Verwaltung.....	5	2, 815	1, 527, 775
A. Borsig'sche Berg- und Hüttenverwaltung.....	2	3, 785	1, 504, 182
Schlesische A. G.	3	4, 043	1, 271, 912
Steinkohlen-Gewerkschaft Charlotte.....	1	3, 530	963, 446
Oberschles. Eisenbahn-Bedarfs A. G.	1	2, 048	667, 774
Witkowitz Bergbau und Eisenhüttengewerkschaft.....	1	2, 163	634, 900
Gewerkschaft Waterloo.....	1	777	315, 794
Gottmitzgrube, A. G.	1	544	199, 547
Fürstl. von Hohenlohe'sche Verwaltung.....	1	517	109, 191
G. von Rufferts Erben.....	1	564	155, 313
Gewerkschaft Beateusglück.....	1	504	105, 030
Gewerkschaft Kons. Gletwitzer Steinkohlengrube.....	1	284	13, 786
Total.....	59	120, 638	41, 485, 442

Formation of the Oberschlesische Kohlen-Konvention.

In 1898 the mining companies established the "Oberschlesische Kohlen-Konvention," which was joined later by the Prussian Government. This convention was founded for the purpose of combating the strong competition of the "Rheinische-Westfälische Kohlen-Syndikat," which represents the Ruhr district in the western part of Germany. The Upper Silesian convention, unlike the syndicate, does not interfere with the sale of coal, but regulates the market by fixing minimum prices and the general conditions of transportation. In all other affairs the convention leaves freedom of action to all its members and it has been of great assistance to the coal-mining industry in Upper Silesia.

The Lower Silesian coal-mining concerns are united in the "Niederschlesische Kohlen-Syndikat," which does not compare with the "Upper Silesian Konvention" in importance.

Labor Conditions.

Living conditions are very favorable. The Upper Silesian mining companies provide their workmen with clean, healthy, and cheap lodgings near the mines. Similar efforts are being made in Lower Silesia, although the mountainous character of the land makes it difficult to form large colonies of workmen as in Upper Silesia.

In both districts the mining concerns make special efforts to assist their employees. The necessary foodstuffs, such as pork, potatoes, cabbage, etc., are purchased in large quantities by the companies and sold to the workmen at minimum prices with convenient terms of payment. One of the Lower Silesian coal mines has established a bakery, which supplies a good quality of bread to all the laborers

in its employ. A sufficient amount of coal is furnished to every employee or workman free of charge.

Of the number of industrial laborers in Upper Silesia totaling 197,062 in 1912, 120,638, or 61 per cent, were employed in the coal mines. Labor conditions there are characterized by the minor depth of the shafts, with favorable temperatures. The Upper Silesian mines are generally free from the fulminating damp and sulphuric acid which characterize some of the coal mines in Lower Silesia. Statistics show that deaths from accidents are decreasing in the Upper and Lower Silesian coal mines.

Number of Miners Employed and Wages Received.

The following table gives the number of workmen, the average wage per shift, per year, and per workman in Upper and Lower Silesia from 1910 to 1914:

Year.	Upper Silesia.			Lower Silesia.		
	Number of workmen.	Wages per shift.	Wages per year.	Number of workmen.	Wages per shift.	Wages per year.
1910.....	116,262	\$0.82	\$229.43	27,979	\$0.77	\$231.81
1911.....	117,403	.83	233.24	27,988	.79	237.52
1912.....	117,585	.83	238.23	27,923	.78	245.22
1913.....	121,617	.86	269.89	27,964	.82	261.22
1914.....	119,373	.85	258.47	25,619	.82	260.37

The figures for Upper Silesia do not give the actual wages of skilled miners, which are considerably higher than those paid unskilled laborers.

There are usually three shifts in 24 hours of 8 hours each, and the time consumed in going to and from the mines is not included. Shift working in a mine where the temperature is more than 30° Cel. (86° Fahr.) is usually six hours. Special laws regulate the time of work and the intervals for youths and women.

In the following table are shown the number of workmen employed in the mines of Upper and Lower Silesia in 1914 and the wages received by them:

UPPER SILESIA.

Class.	Number of workmen.	Number of shifts.		Earned net wages.		
		Total.	Per man.	Total.	Per shift.	Per man.
Miners (under ground).....	35,226	10,486,216	298	\$11,960,538	\$1.14	\$340
Other workmen (under ground).....	39,973	12,272,885	307	10,258,641	.83	257
Workmen (over ground).....	31,413	9,781,036	311	7,485,496	.77	238
Youths from 14 to 16 years.....	6,999	2,041,929	292	612,585	.30	88
Women (over ground).....	5,762	1,690,406	293	526,775	.31	91

LOWER SILESIA.

Miners (under ground).....	10,427	3,271,249	314	\$3,026,337	\$0.93	\$300
Other workmen (under ground).....	6,896	2,174,636	315	1,795,173	.82	269
Workmen (over ground).....	7,001	2,284,508	326	1,713,894	.75	246
Youths from 14 to 16 years (over ground).....	957	287,315	300	92,482	.32	97
Women (over ground).....	333	101,503	300	41,371	.41	121

Total Production in 1913, 1914, and 1915 in Germany.

The total production of coal, lignite, coke, and briquets in Germany for the years 1913, 1914, and 1915 is shown in the following table:

Item.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Stone coal.....	191,511,154	161,535,224	146,712,350
Lignite.....	87,116,343	83,946,906	83,369,554
Coke.....	32,167,716	27,324,712	26,359,430
Stone-coal briquets.....	5,823,776	5,948,929	6,362,484
Briquets from lignite.....	21,417,979	21,448,600	23,350,464

Of the total output of coal in 1913, Upper Silesia produced 43,434,944 metric tons, valued at \$93,828,168, or \$2.16 per ton, compared with 36,996,106 metric tons, valued at \$80,838,366, or \$2.18 per ton, in 1914. Lower Silesia produced 5,527,859 metric tons, valued at \$13,778,772, or \$2.49 per ton, in 1913, and 4,845,854 metric tons, valued at \$12,314,179, or \$2.54 per ton, in 1914.

Amount of Coal Mined per Man.

The following table shows the number of shifts, total and per man, the total production, the production per man and per shift in Upper and Lower Silesia from 1910 to 1914:

UPPER SILESIA.

Year.	Shifts.		Production of coal.		
	Total.	Per man.	Total.	Per man.	Per shift.
			<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
1910.....	32,549,363	280	34,460,660	296	1.059
1911.....	33,059,398	282	36,653,790	312	1.109
1912.....	36,488,014	310	41,074,600	349	1.126
1913.....	37,954,107	312	43,434,944	357	1.144
1914.....	36,272,475	304	36,996,106	310	1.020

LOWER SILESIA.

1910.....	8,433,975	301	5,532,579	198	0.656
1911.....	8,467,231	303	5,646,622	202	0.667
1912.....	8,842,336	317	5,509,868	197	0.623
1913.....	8,931,944	321	5,527,859	198	0.619
1914.....	8,119,209	317	4,845,854	189	0.597

Competition With Other Coal Fields.

With regard to the sale of coal, it is reported that during the past few years the Lower and Upper Silesian mining companies had to meet strong competition from the districts of Middle and Western Germany, and, previous to the war, from England, which had invaded the German market on account of convenient water transportation. As Silesia's geographical location at the southeast corner of Germany is unfavorable for inland trade, and waterways are few and inconvenient, the Silesian coal industry had to look for markets in the adjoining districts of Russia and Austria.

The following tables show the sales of Upper and Lower Silesian coal transported by railroad in 1911, 1912, and 1913:

UPPER SILESIA.

Railway transportation to—	1911	1912	1913
	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
District of Upper Silesia.....	5,019,270	6,287,653	6,587,281
Other districts of Germany.....	12,224,853	14,503,713	14,279,638
Russian Poland.....	1,177,250	1,281,146	1,408,170
Other districts of Russia.....	181,039	181,204	489,928
Galicia and Bucovina.....	1,203,203	1,472,301	2,013,601
Bohemia.....	732,661	817,958	841,331
Hungary.....	1,845,068	2,200,942	2,787,048
Other districts of Austria.....	4,533,111	4,995,089	5,452,806
Roumania.....	5,755	14,940	52,404
Servia, Bulgaria, Turkey.....	2,209	2,755	1,477
Switzerland.....	268	3,195	2,212
Other countries.....	720	28,612	40,851
Total.....	26,925,407	31,789,508	33,936,736

LOWER SILESIA.

Districts of Breslau and Liegnitz.....	1,544,701	1,661,273	1,606,258
Other districts of Germany.....	1,012,459	1,072,661	1,063,772
Russian Poland.....	20,472	34,233	39,580
Other districts of Russia.....	808	502	6,805
Galicia, Bucovina.....	50	10	46
Hungary, Bosnia, Herzegovina.....	10,498	10,620	12,989
Bohemia.....	1,236,398	1,335,459	1,273,721
Other districts of Austria.....	146,808	170,891	167,126
Total.....	3,982,192	4,285,651	4,262,296

Compulsory Insurance for Workmen.

The laws in Germany for the social welfare of the working classes require the mining companies to contribute considerable sums for insuring their workmen and employees. Hospitals and sanitariums are maintained by contributions and donations from various concerns. The workmen themselves have to pay their share according to the wages they receive. Besides the contributions for insurance the mining concerns spend considerable sums for voluntary relief work.

The following table shows to what extent the Upper Silesian coal companies are taxed by the various branches of compulsory insurance:

Year.	Amount of yearly contribution paid by—		Per head.
	Concerns.	Employees.	
1903.....	\$629,023	\$409,010	\$19.33
1908.....	780,319	498,389	21.53
1902.....	1,462,527	870,904	28.15
1907.....	2,101,450	1,183,774	34.00
1912.....	8,134,410	1,804,002	40.70

Increased Prices of German Flatirons.

Consul Harry G. Seltzer reports from Breslau, under date of November 1, that the Union of German Flatiron Manufacturers has increased the price of its products by another 10 to 15 per cent.

CONDITION OF THE BRAZILIAN CEMENT MARKET.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 3.]

There has been a considerable decrease in the imports of cement into Brazil during the past two years, compared with the years immediately preceding. The total value of the imports decreased from \$7,119,210 in 1913 to \$2,504,061 in 1914 and \$2,611,315 in 1915. The countries of origin were as follows:

Country. -	1913	1914	1915
United States.....	\$765,023	\$357,634	\$1,180,501
Germany.....	2,978,914	1,079,972	84,667
Great Britain.....	1,918,481	572,302	678,024
Belgium.....	906,531	214,031	6,012
Denmark.....	110,639	142,025	511,143
France.....	175,035	27,462	50,504
Other countries.....	264,587	110,635	100,464
Total.....	7,119,210	2,504,061	2,611,315

The prices of certain kinds of cement on the Rio de Janeiro market, per barrel of 150 kilos (330 pounds), have been as follows during the current year:

Kind.	Feb. 14-19, 1916.	May 29- June 3, 1916.	Oct. 16-21, 1916.
Dova.....	\$5.08	\$5.85	\$4.95
Alpha.....	5.08	5.85	4.95
Lehigh.....	5.08	5.50	4.95
Pyramid.....	.....	5.85	4.95

The agent of a large American cement manufacturing company states that the local market is overstocked with cement at present, and that unless exceptionally low c. i. f. prices are asked, but few orders will be placed until the beginning of next year.

[Previous reports on the Brazilian cement market were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Apr. 16, May 21, and June 25, 1915.]

PHILIPPINE PALM BRANDIES AND ALCOHOL.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 20.]

A special effort is being made to widen the market for Philippine alcohol products, which are obtained from various palms on the islands. The movement particularly relates to pure alcohol for medical or industrial purposes and to Philippine coco or palm brandy. Both products are being brought to the attention of Hongkong importers, and there is every reason to anticipate considerable trade in them.

The sale of Philippine alcohol in Hongkong has been increasing at an especially rapid rate and bids fair to maintain a strong if not a controlling hold on the market after the close of the war, which has made its introduction here practicable. Its chief competitor is Java alcohol. The alcohol as a rule is imported in 5-gallon tins, two tins to the case, in the same manner as gasoline and kerosene.

[An article on the production of alcohol in the Philippine Islands was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 13, 1916.]

TRADE-MARK PROTECTION IN COSTA RICA.

[Vice Consul Ulysses S. Fitzpatrick, San Jose, Oct. 27.]

A decision of great importance to users of unregistered trade-marks was rendered by the President of Costa Rica on October 25, 1916. A well-known brand of whisky had been sold in Costa Rica for many years, but neither the name nor the mark had been registered. Taking advantage of this situation, a local company secured the registration of a similar mark and served notice of its intention to prosecute infringements. The users of the original mark contended that the registration could not prevent the sale of their whisky, since the two marks were not identical, and the local company thereupon applied also for the registration of the original mark without variation. In passing upon the application for the registration of this latter mark, the President held that since it was widely known to be the property of another company the application should be refused. The President further ordered that hereafter no trade-mark should be registered which is well known in Costa Rica by reason of advertising or the sale of trade-marked articles unless authority to apply for such registration is proved. The practical effect of a strict application of this decision will be to prevent the misappropriation of foreign marks even when not registered.

INCREASED EXPORTS OF COTTON.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending December 2, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	3,011	Virginia.....	4,885
Massachusetts.....	1,016	Galveston.....	68,343
Maryland.....	3,278	New Orleans.....	37,436
New York.....	14,645	San Francisco.....	22,269
North Carolina.....	9,850	Washington.....	29,963
Philadelphia.....	1,894		
South Carolina.....		Total.....	196,501

The exports of 196,501 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 2,568,654 bales. Shipments of cotton for the corresponding periods of last year were, respectively, 114,109 bales for the week and 1,886,971 bales in the cotton year.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS IN PERU.

Industrial statistics are to be collected in Peru, under the direction of the Department of Fomento. The President of Peru, in a decree published in a recent number of *La Revista Comercial*, provides for the collection and publication of industrial data by the Department of Fomento. Manufacturing establishments must furnish the information desired by the Government. The industrial statistics will appear annually in a special volume.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	123 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendall, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Winslow, Edward D.....	Copenhagen, Denmark	Dec. 11	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon....	Dec. 25	2238 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, at Washington, during the week ended December 2:

Cotton Goods in China (Special Agents Series 107).—A report worthy of the serious consideration and study of American cotton manufacturers who are seeking an outlet abroad for their products. Price, 25 cents.

The Determination of the Magnetic Induction in Straight Bars (Standards Scientific Papers 117).—Description of a method of making precision magnetic measurements in use at the Bureau of Standards. Price, 15 cents.

Artificial Dyestuffs Used in the United States (Special Agents Series 121).—Gives quantity and value of foreign imports and of domestic production during year 1913-14. Price, 30 cents.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1891 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols:

* Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency	23194	Schooners	23195
Cloth cutters, electric	23196	Screening material	23199
Curling irons, electric	23196	Shoe trees	23196
Flint	23200	Springs, window	23199
Glue in tubes	23196	Sulphate of copper	23192
Hinges, window	23199	Ticking, mattress	23197
Lumber	23192	Tools	23196
Polish, furniture	23196	Travelers' supplies	23196
Potash	23198	Wrist watch holders	23196
Razors, safety	23196	Vanillin	23198

23192.*—A chocolate manufacturing company in Switzerland is in the market for lumber for making packing cases such as are used in shipping chocolate. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Payment will be made in cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23193.*—The buyer for a firm which manufactures fertilizers in Spain desires to communicate with American exporters of pure sulphate of copper. Fifty tons or more are desired. If shipment is made by steamer prices should be quoted c. i. f. Cadiz, and if by sailing vessel, c. i. f. Malaga. Payment will be made in cash upon arrival and after analysis of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23194.‡—A man in France desires to represent American exporters. No particular line of goods is specified. Reference.

23195.*—A group of planters in a Portuguese insular possession desire to purchase two wooden schooners of about 265 tons net each, for the transportation of fruit. The vessels should have three masts, two hatches, holds floored with copper, ventilation for holds, and steam winch between hatches. The schooners should be equipped with auxiliary steam power sufficient to attain a speed of 5 knots. The length of time necessary to build and price should be stated. Cash will be paid on delivery of vessels. Correspondence in English.

23196.*—A wholesale merchant in Spain desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of tools, electric curling irons, electric cloth cutters, wrist-watch holders, travelers' supplies, furniture polish, safety razors, tubes of glue, shoetrees, etc. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23197.*—A manufacturer of mattresses in Canada is in the market for ticking. Three grades of ticking are desired, including the cheapest quality. Approximately 500 yards of material are to be used daily.

23198.*—A firm in Switzerland would like to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of potash and vanillin such as are used in the manufacture of chocolate. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Payment will be made in cash against documents. References. Correspondence in English.

23199.‡—A man in New Zealand desires to communicate with American manufacturers of window and door screening materials for use on railway trains. Prices, f. o. b. New York, together with cost of springs and hinges, are requested.

23200.*—A business man in England wishes to purchase flints for cigarette lighters. Quotations should be made c. i. f. English and European ports. Payment will be made by sight draft.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 287 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 7 1916

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NEW BRITISH MILLING ORDER.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Ireland, Nov. 21.]

The Milling Order, 1916, issued by the British Board of Trade gives for the United Kingdom the following as the percentages of flour that must be extracted from wheat of various qualities: From English wheat, 76 per cent; choice Bombay, 78; Australian, 78; Blue Stem, 76; Walla Walla, 75; No. 2 Red Western, 76; No. 2 Red Winter, 74; No. 2 new Hard Winter (1916), 76; No. 1 Northern, 75; No. 1 Northern Manitoba, old crop, 76; No. 2 Northern Manitoba, old crop, 75; No. 3 Northern Manitoba, old crop, 73; choice white Karachi, 75; Rosafe (62 pounds), 73; soft red Karachi, 75; Baril (61½ pounds), 74; and Barletta Russo (61½ pounds), 74 per cent.

The order will come into force on November 27, 1916; that is to say, on and after that date no wheat may be milled except in accordance with this schedule.

INCREASE OF PORT CHARGES AT BRISTOL.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, Jr., Bristol, England, Nov. 3.]

The Bristol Docks Committee have given notice that in consequence of a further war allowance being granted to dock laborers the dues, rates, and charges have been increased as follows:

On and after October 21, 1916, a further 5 per cent on all ships entering from or leaving for foreign ports and on all goods imported from or exported to foreign ports, making a total increase of 15 per cent in former rates; on and after October 2, 1916, an additional 10 per cent for labor furnished by the Docks Committee. The former schedule is therefore subject to a total increase of 30 per cent.

INCREASED PRICES OF GERMAN PORCELAIN.

Consul Harry G. Seltzer reports from Breslau that the most prominent porcelain manufacturers in Germany have agreed upon a further increase of 20 per cent on the prices of their products; that is, from a previous increase of 45 per cent to 65 per cent over the prices prevailing before the war.

AUTOMOBILE TRADE OF DENMARK.

[Vice Consul Axel Permin, Copenhagen, Oct. 27.]

Denmark has never previously experienced such prosperity as during the last two years, and the increase in the number of automobiles registered shows that at present there is a good market here for motor cars of all descriptions. There were 5,718 automobiles registered in the Kingdom on September 1, 1916, against 4,331 on September 1, 1915, and 3,430 on the corresponding date in 1914. The total indicated horsepower rose from 28,100 in 1914 to 35,200 in 1915 and 50,500 in 1916. Since the beginning of the war the increase has thus been 2,288 cars and 22,400 horsepower. The following table shows the number of motor cars registered in Copenhagen, the provincial cities, and the rural districts on September 1 of the years named:

District.	1902	1912	1914	1915	1916
Copenhagen.....	417	824	1,454	1,675	2,128
Provincial cities.....	114	485	1,130	1,441	1,843
Rural districts.....	151	278	846	1,215	1,747
Total.....	682	1,587	3,430	4,331	5,718

As will be seen from this table the increase in the number of registered automobiles from 1914 to 1916 is largest in the rural districts (901) and smallest in the capital (674) cars.

Horsepower of Cars and Trucks.

Of the 5,718 automobiles registered on September 1, 1916, by far the largest number, viz, 4,995, were for personal use. This number includes 1,461 which are used for cab or omnibus services, leaving 3,534 for private use. Auto trucks numbered 723. In 1914 there were 1,948 private automobiles and 351 auto trucks. The increase during the two years is thus 1,586 private automobiles and 372 auto trucks. The following table classifies these cars by indicated horsepower:

Horsepower.	Cars for personal use.		Autotrucks.	
	1914	1916	1914	1916
Up to 6.....	1,105	1,725	109	192
6 to 12.....	1,676	2,485	165	344
Over 12.....	298	785	77	187
Total.....	3,079	4,995	351	723

Of the automobiles of more than 5 horsepower registered on January 1, 1916, 75 were of Danish make, 45 English, 588 American, 303 French, and 1,008 German. Some of these cars had motors rated above 40 horsepower.

[A list of dealers in automobiles and accessories in Denmark may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 82156.]

CUBAN DEMAND FOR GASOLINE MOTORS.

[Consul R. M. Bartleman, Cienfuegos, Nov. 7.]

A very fair demand for gasoline motors exists in the Cienfuegos district, but on account of the excessive advance in the price of gasoline there is a tendency to turn to the crude-oil engine.

The following quotations have been obtained: 1½ horsepower, \$78; 1½ horsepower, \$55; 4½ horsepower, \$95; 4 horsepower, \$180; 6 horsepower, \$185, \$215, and \$375; 8 horsepower, \$285.

Dealers also offer a complete plant for lighting and industrial purposes (the heating feature being superfluous for this climate), consisting of engine, motor, and storage battery, with a capacity for 10 lights, costing at factory \$150, placed on market here at \$240. Others, of 20-light capacity, with a factory cost of \$200, sell here at \$320.

Service for Both Power and Light.

In this district pretentious residences warranting the installation of electric lights or farms where the development of power is desirable are very limited in number. Every important center of population, including the sugar plantations, has service for both power and light, although it is probable that much of the current is available only during the "lighting" hours, from sunset to sunrise. In this city, however, it is stated that everything is in readiness for daily service except the running of the cable, the delivery of which has been delayed several months.

The names of individuals and firms who may be interested in this subject are forwarded. It is suggested that correspondence be conducted in Spanish, the language of the country, thus facilitating negotiations, as well as creating a better impression and closer contact commercially.

[The names of the firms mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81941.]

NASSAU BANKS AND AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul W. F. Doty, Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, Nov. 24.]

There are two banks at Nassau—the Bank of Nassau and a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. Numerous inquiries are received at the latter bank from merchants in the United States concerning financial conditions in the Bahama Islands, especially the standing of firms, which are promptly answered gratis. Bills of lading and invoices of articles shipped from the United States are forwarded for collection to this bank, which is in position materially to assist in the interchange of commodities by aiding the importer financially if required to do so.

There has been a marked improvement in financial matters in the Bahama Islands compared with 1915, owing to increased exports and good offers for standard articles. Collections have been easier. The outlook is hopeful. The purchasing power is being increased by larger plantations of field crops, resulting in increased shipments of fresh tomatoes and other "green truck" to the United States.

TYPES OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS USED IN SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Oct. 10.]

Musical instruments of western types have not yet become very popular in Siam. The piano and the small portable organ may be seen occasionally in the homes of the Siamese and Chinese, but they are kept for ornamental rather than actual use. Some other instruments of foreign make, however, have found favor for use in military bands and in the funeral processions of the Chinese. The phonograph has a place in every Siamese or Chinese home that can afford one.

Of the \$13,872 worth of musical instruments imported into Siam during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, the phonograph and its records no doubt account for the greater portion. The values of the imports of musical instruments for the four fiscal years preceding 1916 were \$41,537 in 1912, \$24,412 in 1913, \$31,489 in 1914, and \$14,666 in 1915. The United Kingdom and its dependencies contributed the larger share of these imports during 1916, but before the war imports from Germany at times exceeded those of other European countries, while the amount supplied by the United States hitherto has been insignificant.

As a strong demand exists in this country for phonographs and phonographic records, an active American canvassing agency would be likely to produce a successful business.

Siamese Music and Instruments.

The Siamese musical scale has been described as radically different from the European. The ideal scale here is an equal division of the octave into seven parts, and each interval therefore consists of $1\frac{1}{4}$ semitones. The Siamese music is not written but learned by ear and handed down traditionally.

In his book, "Lotus Land," Mr. Thompson, describing Siamese orchestral music, states that in an open-air band the conductor sits within a large circular frame, from which are suspended small gongs of different tones. On either hand are the "ranats," or harmonicons, consisting of strips of bamboo strung upon a sort of cradle, and tuned by small weights stuck upon them with wax. The cradles are sometimes beautifully inlaid with ivory. When an actor in a theatrical performance begins to sing, the conductor of the orchestra softly follows the first long-drawn-out notes until he hits upon the correct key. This he gives to the rest of the band, and then the liquid notes of the "ranats" join in.

Stringed Instruments Used on Special Occasions.

In the full band, which plays at a rich man's house on great occasions, stringed instruments also are used. The oldest of these are viols, quite similar to those used in Persia. The belly of the instrument is made of the dried outer rind of a coconut, covered with fish skin, upon which is fastened a piece of colored cut glass, serving apparently to quench the inharmonic proper tones of the membrane. The foot is of turned ivory and the neck, also of ivory, is enriched with niello-work, or inlaid mother-of-pearl. There is no finger board. The three strings are of silk cord, and the bow is strung with horse-

hair. There are small fiddles of a Chinese pattern, with two strings and a belly which looks like the bowl of a pipe.

The Laos of northern Siam have a very interesting reed instrument, which is made up with 14 bamboo or hollow-reed pipes symmetrically arranged with a small air chamber and mouthpiece of turned wood or ivory. A tongued metal plate is inserted in a slit in each pipe, and the joints between the pipes and the air chamber are stopped with wax. The tone of this instrument is described as peculiarly sweet, and chords may be produced upon it.

Provide Music for Royal Ceremonies.

Among the highly prized instruments are the "frog" drum and the chank shells, which are considered of good omen and form part of the ritual band that furnishes the music when the King honors state ceremonies with his presence.

Siam has no stores where rare native musical instruments may be purchased, and it is only occasionally that one may be found for sale in a pawnshop. Modern musical instruments, including phonographs and records, are sold by all the leading general stores in Bangkok.

The import duty on musical instruments, phonographs, and records is 3 per cent ad valorem.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

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Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Customhouse, New York City, until Dec. 9.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana..	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

NEW BUILDINGS FOR Breslau AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Germany, Nov. 1.]

The Breslau Agricultural College, a part of the Breslau University, was formerly located in the Silesian Chamber of Agriculture, but because of increased attendance new and modern buildings are now required. Work was started in 1914 and the main building on Hansastrasse is now practically completed, but it is probable that the entire group of buildings will not be finished until 1918.

The college will consist of seven departments: The College for Cultural Technics, the Institute for Veterinary Medicine, the Agricultural, Chemical, and Bacteriological Institute, the College for Animal Industry, the Agricultural Technological Institute, the College for Agricultural Economy, and the College for Plant Industry, besides scientific laboratories and libraries. The wardrobes, lecture halls, and reading rooms will be used by all students in common. In addition to the main building there will be four one-story annexes for housing a collection of agricultural machinery, a veterinary hospital, stables, and a section hall.

The cost was given in the budget of 1914 as \$265,322, but on account of the general increase in prices and wages and the purchases of apparatus not originally contemplated the final cost will total \$595,000.

PAPER TRADE OF GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 14.]

Guatemala is buying all of the print paper needed to supply four daily newspapers, a number of weeklies, and several job-printing establishments at this time from the United States. During the past year at least 6,000 reams of news paper, valued at \$16,000 United States gold, were brought in, while paper of other classes to the value of nearly \$131,000 was also imported. Of this "other paper" the United States furnished \$102,000 worth and Spain \$29,000.

Before the European war the bulk of the paper supply of Guatemala came from Germany and a small quantity from England. Local dealers are predicting that much of this trade will revert to Europe unless the American dealers and manufacturers improve upon their present methods. Complaint is made of unreasonable delays in shipment and delivery of the goods; and in this connection a local dealer reports that after having placed an order with an American firm and after having waited for six months, a substitute order was placed with a manufacturer at Birmingham, England, and the British goods were received before those from the United States under the original order. This delay may have been caused by the lack of shipping facilities or the congestion of the ports.

There is also complaint of the practice of consigning shipments to the railway company in Guatemala rather than to the customer direct.

Customs Duty—Daily and Weekly Publications.

Print paper is subject to a customs duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents United States gold and $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents Guatemalan currency per kilo, or about \$1.16 per 100 pounds.

There are four daily newspapers published in Guatemala City. *Diario de Centro America*, *El Nacional*, *La Republica*, and the *Eco Aleman*. The *Diario de Centro America* has two standard Mergenthaler linotype machines, imported from the United States, while *El Nacional* and *La Republica* each have one. A job printing establishment has four linotypes and another establishment one. *La Republica* has a modern duplex printing press, while the other dailies have cylinder presses of small capacity. The first linotype machine was brought to Guatemala 14 years ago. The composition work is done by natives, and the rate of compensation is greatly below the scale paid in the United States. There is said to be no demand for skilled linotype operators or printing pressmen.

Besides the daily newspapers seven weekly publications, *La Opinion*, *La Grito del Pueblo*, *El Comercio*, *La Actualidad*, *La Cronista*, *El Obrero*, and *La Cultura Latina*, are issued in Guatemala City.

INVESTIGATION OF JAPANESE TRADE IN MANCHURIA.

[Extract from China Press, forwarded by Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, China, Oct. 28.]

Mr. Yoshida, who was selected by the Japanese Government to investigate commercial conditions in Manchuria, has made a report giving details of the trade.

About one month is required to transport goods from Osaka to Harbin, even by passenger train. The principal Japanese products that are sent from Harbin to European Russia are hosiery, underwear, shoe soles, cotton textiles, medicines, isinglass, and insulated electric wire. Inquiries have been received recently for matches, but regret is expressed that there are some complaints about the quality of Japanese matches.

Since the middle of August an import tax has been assessed upon hosiery and underwear by the Russian Manchuria customs. They are now dutiable at \$1.20 United States currency, as against the former rate of \$0.55.

Improvement in Trade of North Manchuria.

The trade of North Manchuria is on the road to prosperity, on account of the increased population and the development of agriculture. Harbin is regarded as the center of business.

In 1915 imports into Harbin were put at \$16,173,333 and exports at \$15,080,000, a total of \$31,253,333. The principal imports were:

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Foodstuffs.....	\$500,000	Other cotton textiles.....	\$666,667
Tea.....	1,000,000	Cotton yarn.....	500,000
Cigarettes.....	1,333,333	Petroleum.....	450,000
Sheeting.....	1,500,000	Metal manufactures.....	666,667
Drills.....	950,000	Flax bags.....	916,667
Cotton textiles of smaller width.....	2,666,667		

The principal exports were: Beans, \$8,000,000; wheat, \$1,500,000; flour, \$1,666,667.

The abundant agricultural crop indicates prosperity in import and export trade this year.

RUSSIAN SUGAR-BEET CROP.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 23.]

The British vice consul at Kief reports that according to statistics received from sugar works in Russia, under date of September 1, the estimated area and yield of beet root, by districts, for the 1916-17 season are as follows, the corresponding figures for the 1915-16 season being added for purposes of comparison:

Districts.	1915-16		1916-17	
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Central Russia.....	676,937	4,829,000	666,847	4,754,000
Eastern Russia.....	103,799	685,000	80,223	518,000
Kherson.....	46,835	239,000	44,657	185,000
Kief.....	510,202	2,950,000	455,202	2,722,000
Kuban Province.....	11,000	46,000	8,841	44,000
Podolia.....	370,230	1,874,000	303,152	1,765,000
Volhyniac.....	98,186	457,000	65,709	393,000
Total.....	1,817,189	11,080,000	1,624,631	10,391,000

The harvesting of the beetroot this season was begun in the first days of September, but it progressed very slowly. Up to September 20 scarcely 20 per cent of the expected beetroot was gathered and only 13 per cent had been delivered at the works; whereas on October 1, 1915, 68 per cent had been gathered and 45 per cent delivered. This slowness was especially noticeable in the southwestern Governments. In consequence of the slow delivery of beetroot, only 60 works were able to commence operations, as compared with 119 works in 1915-16. Scarcity of labor and lack of transportation facilities are the chief reasons for the small quantity of beetroot gathered and the difficulty of delivery to the sugar works.

In 1915-16, in the whole of Russia, 93,000,000 poods (3,358,500,000 pounds) of sugar were manufactured. In 1916-17, if all the beet be gathered and delivered to the works in good condition, the production of sugar should amount to 90,000,000 poods (3,250,000,000 pounds). It is said that, owing to the causes mentioned, at least one-third of the beet will not be delivered.

SHIPMENTS OF MANGANESE FROM RUSSIA.

[Journal of Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, Moscow, September.]

According to the statistical bureau of the Council of Congresses of Miners of Manganese Ore there were shipped in 1916 from the Russian ports of Poti and Datum 9,769 short tons of Tchiaturusk manganese ore, against 9,750 tons in 1915 and 788,214 tons in 1914. By the Tchiaturusk side line there were forwarded from the Tchiaturusk district (Kutais Province, Transcaucasia) 131,934 tons in 1916, of which 60,742 tons were further forwarded by land. In 1915 the shipments from this district amounted to 35,246 tons and in 1914 to 787,661 tons.

The price of the ore, which during the first three months of 1916 did not exceed 8 to 9½ kopecks per pood of washed ore, has now risen to 20 to 22 kopecks (100 kopecks=1 ruble, which at the normal exchange rate=\$0.515; 1 pood=36.1128 pounds).

SIAM'S IMPORTS OF MINERAL OIL.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

With imports amounting to 8,349,257 gallons, valued at \$1,262,050, Siam's purchases of foreign mineral oil in the year ended March 31, 1916, were only slightly larger than in the preceding fiscal twelve-month, as the following table discloses:

Articles and countries whence imported.	1914-15		1915-16	
	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
Kerosene.....	6,167,674	\$859,785	5,792,615	\$884,925
United States.....	1,897,960	322,310	1,494,360	272,865
Netherlands Indies.....	4,269,714	637,475	4,298,255	712,060
Gasoline.....	334,804	110,190	294,430	100,840
United States.....	23,944	7,385	31,968	9,240
Netherlands Indies.....	310,860	102,805	262,462	91,600
Liquid fuel.....	1,166,910	45,250	1,882,588	72,300
Netherlands Indies.....	907,892	34,570	1,685,972	63,245
Singapore.....	259,018	10,680	196,616	9,115
Lubricating oil.....	396,948	114,265	379,624	103,925
United States.....	151,481	40,555	156,681	47,103
India.....	22,365	13,785		
Netherlands Indies.....	91,928	18,920	116,369	23,770
Singapore.....	53,498	20,220	94,345	28,065
United Kingdom.....	76,038	19,975	11,990	4,890
Grand total.....	8,060,336	1,229,490	8,349,257	1,262,050

JANGADA FIBER OBTAINED FROM BRAZIL.

[Consul A. T. Haerberle, Pernambuco, Oct. 17.]

Some very fine samples of jangada fiber have been obtained by the American consulate at Pernambuco. This fiber is found in large quantities in the southern part of this State, as well as in Alagoas. It is obtained from the bark of the jangada tree which gives its name to the native fishing raft, the jangada.

The fiber is used to some extent for making rope. It is very thin, somewhat resembling shavings, but wider and longer. It has a silky appearance.

[Samples of the fiber mentioned may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. The name of the person to whom communications on the subject should be addressed may be obtained from these offices or from the cooperative offices of the Bureau. Refer to file No. 82417.]

CENSUS OF COTTON-GOODS MANUFACTURES.

A preliminary statement of the 1914 census of manufactures for the cotton-goods industry of the country has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census. Comparisons are made with the figures from the census of 1909. During the five years the total capital invested, including cotton goods, cotton small wares, and cotton lace, increased from \$822,237,529 to \$899,764,682. The number of wage earners (average) increased from 378,880 to 379,366, a growth in number of 3.8 per cent, and wages increased 14.7 per cent. The number of salaried employees increased from 8,514 to 8,951, a growth of 17.7 per cent, and salaries represented an increased total of 20.7 per cent. There was practically no change in number of establishments, but proprietors and firm members increased 29.7 per cent.

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN CANADA.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Nov. 9; see also COMMERCE REPORTS for June 15, 1916.]

The Federal Government has the making of all laws regarding fisheries in Canada, although the administration of these laws is undertaken by some of the Provinces as to both tidal and inland territory. The general supervision of the industry rests with the Fisheries Branch of the Department of the Naval Service, and it is from the annual report of this department that much of the following information has been taken:

The coast line of the Atlantic Provinces, from the Bay of Fundy to the Strait of Belle Isle, without taking into account the lesser bays and indentations, measures over 5,000 miles. On the Pacific coast the Province of British Columbia, because of its numerous islands, bays, and fiords, has a sea-washed shore of 7,000 miles. In addition to this immense salt-water fishing area Canada has 220,000 square miles of fresh water, abundantly stocked with many species of excellent food fishes.

The fisheries of the Atlantic coast may be divided into two distinct classes: The deep sea, which take cod, haddock, hake, pollock, and halibut; and the inshore or coastal, which take cod, hake, haddock, pollock, halibut, herring, mackerel, alewife, shad, smelt, flounder, and sardine. The most extensive lobster fishery known is carried on along the eastern shore of Canada, while excellent oyster beds exist in many parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The salmon fishery is, of course, the predominant one on the Pacific coast, but an important halibut fishery is also carried on. The inland lake fisheries yield whitefish, trout, pickerel, pike, sturgeon, and fresh-water herring.

Marketed Value of Catch, by Provinces.

The total marketed value of all kinds of fish, fish products, and marine animals taken by Canadian fishermen from the sea and inland lakes and rivers during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, amounted to \$35,860,708—\$1,596,077 more than in the preceding twelvemonth and \$2,652,960 more than in 1914. The value produced from the fisheries of each Province in the respective order of rank for the last three fiscal years was:

Provinces.	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
British Columbia.....	\$13,891,398	\$11,515,086	\$14,538,320
Nova Scotia.....	8,297,626	7,730,191	9,166,851
New Brunswick.....	4,308,707	4,940,083	4,737,145
Ontario.....	2,674,685	2,755,291	3,341,182
Quebec.....	1,850,427	1,924,430	2,076,851
Prince Edward Island.....	1,280,447	1,261,066	933,682
Manitoba.....	606,272	849,422	742,925
Saskatchewan.....	148,602	132,017	165,886
Alberta.....	81,319	86,720	94,134
Yukon.....	68,265	69,725	63,730
Total.....	33,207,748	31,264,631	35,860,708

Distribution of Catch, by Varieties.

The distribution, by varieties, of the Canadian catch for the three years under review (quantities being given in hundredweight of 100 pounds unless otherwise stated) was:

Kinds of fish.	Quantity.			Value.		
	1914	1915	1916	1914	1915	1916
Alewives.....hundredweight..	61,768	90,935	97,032	\$85,445	\$106,906	\$120,126
Clams, quahaugs, and scallops, barrels.....	121,335	87,972	73,713	197,427	282,876	240,611
Codfish.....hundredweight..	1,664,699	1,820,025	2,152,756	3,387,109	3,896,134	4,489,496
Haddock.....do.....	405,633	566,002	582,522	841,511	1,244,840	1,232,022
Hake and cusk.....do.....	353,698	262,897	379,969	490,979	513,821	620,061
Halibut.....do.....	256,096	239,920	226,151	2,036,400	1,783,233	2,261,776
Herrings.....do.....	2,494,219	2,118,291	1,894,774	3,173,129	2,735,257	2,906,887
Lobsters.....do.....	514,646	408,816	445,277	4,710,062	4,339,929	4,506,155
Mackerel.....do.....	215,442	143,712	180,990	1,280,319	826,846	990,329
Oysters.....barrels.....	29,828	26,546	21,366	173,753	177,979	147,628
Pickarel.....hundredweight..	61,603	97,655	55,722	449,539	657,783	901,183
Pike.....do.....	64,825	97,724	69,229	372,868	469,919	347,355
Pollock.....do.....	150,094	159,788	138,801	187,723	214,196	193,788
Salmon.....do.....	1,551,411	1,409,828	1,410,769	10,833,713	8,560,386	11,262,381
Sardines.....barrels.....	141,384	288,885	336,794	676,668	1,349,615	1,229,086
Smelts.....hundredweight..	88,728	93,771	67,007	810,392	837,682	623,733
Trout.....do.....	73,164	67,890	115,999	564,389	623,504	707,209
Whitefish.....do.....	137,887	159,894	153,529	929,962	975,685	1,048,641
All other.....do.....				2,006,360	1,867,991	1,900,241
Total.....				33,207,748	31,264,631	35,880,708

Fish Inspection Act—Capital Invested.

The herring industry has failed to progress satisfactorily for some time, and the Government hopes to improve conditions, especially in curing and packing, by instruction and inspection. A fish inspection act, in force since May 1, 1915, aims to effect the use of strong, well-made barrels and to raise the standard of curing and grading. Barrels and other packages put up according to the standard set by the act are branded as such free of cost by the Fisheries Branch. During the first season in which the act was operative 1,211 barrels were branded as approved out of 1,328 offered for inspection. For the first 10 months of the calendar year 1916, 4,441 out of 5,307 barrels presented received approval. Many packers who do not ask for inspection are profiting by the Government's suggestions. The Scotch style of curing and packing has been encouraged by demonstration, and this form of the product is selling in New York at \$13 to \$16 a barrel, as compared with \$8 to \$8.50 a barrel for unbranded goods. Haddock is now being attractively prepared in Canada, and sells as choice finnan haddie (a form of smoked haddock) at a good price in the United States. The sale of fish in its fresh state is being developed.

The capital invested in vessels, gear, boats, canneries, etc., amounts to \$25,855,575. Vessels, tugs, and carrying smacks total 1,984, while boats number 38,536, of which 11,097 are gasoline motor boats. Engaged in the industry were in all 102,182 persons, as compared with 94,513 for the preceding fiscal year.

The Dominion's Imports for Consumption.

The values of the fish imported into Canada for consumption during the fiscal years 1914, 1915, and 1916, were \$2,172,900, \$1,706,416,

and \$1,379,081, respectively. By kinds of fish and countries of origin these imports are given in official returns as:

Articles and countries of origin.	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
Anchovies, sardines, sprats, and other fish packed in oil or otherwise in tin boxes.....	\$418,377	\$317,675	\$224,852
United States.....	5,226	7,853	6,707
France.....	31,101	19,382	8,703
Norway.....	279,192	203,372	155,235
United Kingdom.....	73,205	56,391	35,947
Codfish, dry salted or smoked.....	424,815	350,477	146,625
United States.....	3,975	5,145	8,544
Newfoundland.....	422,914	345,229	135,224
Hallbut, fresh.....	127,121	79,862	38,922
United States.....	86,278	54,454	25,163
Newfoundland.....	19,114	10,405	8,833
Herrings, pickled.....	224,497	235,493	332,514
United States.....	15,985	14,379	15,513
Netherlands.....	46,287	25,962	6,222
Newfoundland.....	85,471	124,656	223,837
United Kingdom.....	65,952	64,883	56,631
Oysters, canned.....	46,436	25,302	73,308
United States.....	46,398	25,259	23,307
Oysters, fresh, in shell.....	28,200	17,745	14,813
United States.....	28,191	17,745	14,813
Oysters, shucked, in bulk.....	303,328	210,839	241,313
United States.....	309,328	210,839	241,313
Other fish.....	590,066	467,933	356,734
United States.....	265,448	184,887	133,253
United Kingdom.....	99,775	79,000	17,804
RECAPITULATION.			
Total imports.....	2,172,900	1,706,416	1,379,081
United States.....	760,829	520,561	468,643
United Kingdom.....	241,812	200,503	116,565
Other countries.....	1,170,259	985,352	799,873

Canada's Exports of Domestic Fishery Products.

Canada's exports of domestic fish and fish products average \$20,000,000 a year, the kinds of fish making up these cargoes and the principal destinations to which the shipments went in the last three fiscal years being:

Articles and countries of destination.	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
Bait, all kinds.....	\$140,567	\$67,733	\$19,331
United States.....	140,452	65,315	17,454
Codfish, haddock, ling, and pollock, fresh.....	66,149	111,004	109,762
United States.....	66,149	110,984	109,762
Codfish, dry salted.....	4,564,731	4,121,862	5,418,059
United States.....	1,131,347	1,357,079	1,440,573
Brazil.....	691,313	487,491	943,568
British West Indies.....	829,755	674,907	757,914
Cuba.....	470,290	502,724	622,763
United Kingdom.....	92,511	54,134	171,965
Codfish, pickled.....	23,165	128,910	118,361
United Kingdom.....	23,141	128,910	118,356
Codfish tongues and sounds.....	34,872	30,786	49,765
United States.....	34,772	30,725	49,750
Codfish, wet salted.....	53,185	268,976	319,645
United States.....	43,111	260,290	280,312
United Kingdom.....	—	54,000	24,400
Herrings, fresh or frozen.....	143,116	506,533	330,838
United States.....	141,146	492,586	330,433
Herrings, canned.....	1,834	53,338	103,312
United States.....	1,815	17	5,065
United Kingdom.....	—	8,500	6,000
Herrings, pickled.....	793,401	821,252	780,292
United States.....	144,904	167,131	389,291
British West Indies.....	127,372	139,750	115,815
China.....	75,965	116,888	18,228
Japan.....	249,097	201,388	146,273
United Kingdom.....	6,704	30,656	—

Articles and countries of destination.	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31—		
	1914	1915	1916
Herrings, smoked.....	\$89,931	\$141,963	\$188,475
United States.....	54,337	129,079	165,337
British West Indies.....	25,900	7,427	9,842
Lobsters, fresh.....	707,486	849,368	934,522
United States.....	707,485	842,368	934,522
Lobsters, canned.....	2,983,987	3,013,782	2,672,179
United States.....	808,296	892,442	533,072
Belgium.....	124,283	93,675	.....
France.....	703,469	556,317	818,164
Germany.....	182,033	173,455	.....
United Kingdom.....	1,010,367	1,123,691	1,236,278
Mackerel, fresh.....	216,516	156,487	220,664
United States.....	216,307	156,437	220,664
Mackerel, pickled.....	343,692	299,208	410,199
United States.....	272,665	219,967	329,624
British West Indies.....	45,818	58,409	55,286
Oysters, fresh.....	2,513	6,857	3,351
United States.....	2,031	6,471	3,066
Salmon, canned.....	6,631,437	4,948,723	6,306,056
United States.....	115,360	17,216	2,584
Australia.....	383,278	386,023	599,173
France.....	213,543	88,603	390,288
New Zealand.....	168,113	172,004	159,063
United Kingdom.....	5,435,727	4,018,304	4,930,625
Salmon, dog.....	42,193	53,667	224,862
United States.....	3,906	44,638	224,893
Salmon, fresh.....	364,564	387,543	460,737
United States.....	219,994	292,559	274,504
United Kingdom.....	127,356	92,023	183,631
Salmon, pickled.....	372,019	306,438	145,101
United States.....	90,376	163,196	97,873
Germany.....	147,803	.....	.....
Japan.....	71,711	.....	20,983
Salmon or lake trout.....	39,035	76,947	119,787
United States.....	38,982	76,947	119,787
Smelts.....	332,792	427,873	361,669
United States.....	332,792	427,873	361,231
Other fish, etc.....	1,901,116	2,094,623	2,160,797
United States.....	1,792,088	2,002,469	2,071,257
RECAPITULATION.			
Total exports of fish and fish products.....	20,130,605	19,325,888	21,982,925
United States.....	6,644,355	8,254,208	8,488,495
United Kingdom.....	6,726,389	5,422,281	6,721,396
Other countries.....	6,760,861	5,649,399	6,773,034

The values shown for the three leading export fish represent the following quantities: Dry salted codfish—1914, 74,648,200 pounds; 1915, 65,990,300 pounds; 1916, 86,457,300 pounds; canned lobsters—1914, 8,271,662 pounds; 1915, 7,518,741 pounds; 1916, 8,339,903 pounds; canned salmon—1914, 61,097,424 pounds; 1915, 34,655,108 pounds; 1916, 49,142,882 pounds.

In addition to the shipments of domestic fishery products, the Dominion reexported \$107,636 worth of foreign fish in the fiscal year 1914, \$120,108 worth in 1915, and \$199,713 worth in 1916.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 897 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

SPAIN'S REDUCED EXPORTS OF GLUE STOCK.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 27.]

Dealers in the United States have asked for information concerning the Barcelona trade in hide cuttings and other stock for making glues and gelatines. Before the present war began Spain imported annually about 2,100,000 pounds of glue and gelatines of all kinds, but the actual annual imports have fallen to about 850,000 pounds. Hence the Spanish glue factories, of which according to the most recent available statistics there are 62, are working more intensively than ever before and can not supply the demand without effort.

It is said that there are 27 glue factories in this region of Catalonia, where the industry is considered more important than elsewhere. The first mentioned materials for the manufacture of glue are now naturally in greater demand in the domestic market than formerly, a fact which in part accounts for the marked decrease in recent exports of glue stock. In 1915 exports of these materials from Spain amounted to about 2,000,000 pounds, the principal purchasers of which were France, England, Italy, and the United States, whereas the exports during 1913 totaled 10,000,000 pounds.

In correspondence with firms here manufacturers should use Spanish.

[A list of names of dealers in glue stock at Barcelona may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative officers. Refer to file No. 82395.]

PULP WOOD ON CROWN LANDS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 23.]

Increased interest in paper production may lead American manufacturers to study the legal status of the pulp-wood industry as related to production on the Crown lands of this Province. The New Brunswick Legislature passed an act on April 13, 1911, respecting the manufacture of spruce and other pulp wood cut on Crown lands. It provided that all sales of timber licenses by the surveyor general thereafter made which should convey the right to cut and remove spruce or other softwood trees or timber, other than pine and poplar, suitable for manufacturing pulp or paper, and all licenses or permits to cut such timber on the limits and berths so sold should be governed by the following regulation:

Every timber license or permit conferring authority to cut spruce or other softwood trees or timber, not being pine or poplar, suitable for manufacturing pulp or paper on the ungranted lands of the Crown shall contain and be subject to the condition that all such timber cut under the authority or permission of such license or permit shall be manufactured in Canada; that is to say, into merchantable pulp and paper or into sawn lumber, woodenware utensils, or other articles of commerce or merchandise, as distinguished from the said spruce or other timber in its raw or manufactured state; and such condition shall be kept and observed by the holder or holders of any such timber licenses or permit, who shall cut or cause to be cut spruce or other softwood trees, or timber, not being pine or poplar, suitable for manufacturing pulp or paper under the authority thereof, and by any other person or persons who shall cut or cause to be cut any of such wood trees or timber. It is hereby declared that the cutting of spruce or other softwood trees or timber, not being pine or poplar, suitable for manufacturing pulp or paper, into cordwood or other lengths, is not manufacturing the same within the meaning of this regulation.

Amendment to Law Adopted This Year.

On April 29, 1916, the foregoing provisions were amended by adding the following:

Provided always, That if the holder or holders of any such timber license or permit, or any other person or persons cutting or causing to be cut in any logging season, any of such wood, trees, or timber, under the authority thereof, shall manufacture or cause to be manufactured in Canada during the first sawing season after such cutting, in which the same can be got to the place of manufacture into merchantable pulp or paper, or into sawn lumber or woodenware utensils, or other articles of commerce or merchandise, a quantity of wood, trees, or timber equivalent to the amount so cut on the lands comprised in any such timber license or permit, whether the same was cut on lands comprised in any such timber license or permit or on granted lands, or partly on each, the same shall be deemed to be a compliance with this section.

The amendment further prescribes that the original act and any and all amendments thereto shall not be applicable to the tops of 8 inches in diameter or less of any trees so cut, nor shall the use or disposition of the same or any mill waste be affected thereby.

USE OF PONIES AND CARTS IN CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 21.]

Native ponies are sometimes used to draw pleasure vehicles in the Valparaiso district of Chile, but no Shetland ponies are to be seen here. The vehicles employed in driving the native animals are usually of the type of inclosed basket cart known in England as a governess cart. They are designed to be used with a horse weighing from 500 to 600 pounds.

These carts and other types of two-wheeled pleasure vehicles are imported principally from England. Carts made locally to be drawn by ponies or small horses are utility vehicles for distribution of milk, vegetables, etc.

The duty on carriages, carts, brakes, etc. (par. 1615, tariff of 1916), is 1 Chilean gold peso per kilo, gross weight (\$16.56 per 100 pounds, gross weight).

[A list of houses in Chile which should be addressed by American exporters of pony vehicles may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81773.]

NEW ZEALAND OFFERS SUPPLIES OF PUMICE.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 10.]

Deposits of pumice rocks and pumice sands in New Zealand are being worked extensively and promise much for the future. Exports of such products amounted to 2,683 tons, valued at \$36,431, during 1913; to 2,260 tons, valued at \$29,019, in 1914; and to 1,853 tons, valued at \$24,152, in 1915. The greater portion of these exports went to Australia.

The price now quoted for lump pumice is \$73 per ton in bulk, and if crated about 97 cents extra per 112 pounds; and the price of pumice sand is now quoted at \$13.38 per ton in bulk, with cost of sacks extra when sacked.

[Samples of pumice from New Zealand, with price list, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. The name of an Auckland firm which offers to supply this product may be obtained from these offices or the cooperative offices of the bureau. Refer to file No. 82458.]

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agave fiber.....	23206	Hazelnuts.....	23205
Almonds.....	23205	Medicines, homeopathic.....	23207
Distributors, automatic.....	23203	Sisal grass.....	23206
Dyestuffs.....	23210	Strainers, rotary sewerage.....	23208
Fasteners, paper.....	23202	Tubes for pharmaceutical products.....	23211
Fencing materials.....	23201	Underwear, men's.....	23204
Furniture, office.....	23209	Wire, barbed.....	23201

23201.†—A firm in Argentina wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of barbed wire and fencing materials.

23202.*—A firm in England is in the market for 100,000,000 paper fasteners. Prices f. o. b. New York per million fasteners and approximate date of delivery are desired. Payment will be made in cash against documents in New York. Samples of the fasteners required may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81899.) References.

23203.*—A man in Spain would like to be placed in touch with manufacturers and exporters of automatic distributors and apparatus for bars and cafés. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in Spanish.

23204.*—An agency in Canada desires to represent on a commission basis a manufacturer of fine grades of men's fleece-lined, union, and all-wool winter underwear. Direct correspondence with the manufacturer is desired.

23205.*—A chocolate manufacturing firm in Switzerland is in the market for hazelnuts, almonds, and similar products used in manufacturing chocolate. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.

23206.*—A firm in Spain desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of sisal grass or agave fiber in lengths of 30 inches. Quotations should be made c. i. f. port of destination. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23207.*—A man in Honduras desires to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of homeopathic medicines. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York or factory. Cash will be paid with order. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

23208.*—A firm in Canada would like to represent manufacturers of rotary sewerage strainers. Reference.

23209.*—A firm of retail furniture dealers in France would like to communicate with manufacturers and exporters of unvarnished office desks and chairs. Prices per dozen are desired. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid against documents. Reference. Correspondence may be in English.

23210.*—A wholesale importer and exporter in Spain is in the market for colors for dyeing silk, wool, and cotton. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made through New York bank after examination of merchandise. Correspondence may be in English. References.

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1916

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AMENDMENT OF BRITISH PROHIBITION ON GOLD AND SILVER.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 6.]

A proclamation amendatory of the proclamation reported November 17 has been issued prohibiting the importation of gold, manufactured or unmanufactured, including gold coin and articles consisting partly of or containing gold, also of all manufactures of silver other than silver watches and watchcases, and jewelry of any description. The prohibition does not apply to gold consigned for delivery at and sale to the Bank of England. Aluminum and alloys of all classes are proclaimed to be war material, and dealing therein is permitted only on the granting of a permit by the Ministry of Munitions.

[The proclamation reported by the consulate on Nov. 17 appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 20. An interpretation of its provisions was published in the issue of Nov. 28.]

LEATHER FROM SHARK SKINS.

The condition of the leather market makes desirable the utilization of all available supplies of suitable animal skins. The Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Commerce has taken up the possible value of shark skins in making various kinds of leather. Such skins, as is well known, have for many years had a limited demand in the United States as coverings for minor articles of ornament and utility, but their use as leather has been very restricted. An acceptable leather has been prepared from shark skins in several foreign countries, and there is no apparent reason why the skins of certain sharks caught on our own coasts or in foreign waters may not be converted into serviceable leather by American tanners.

Shark skins are very tough and durable, and some of them show a beautiful surface pattern which persists in the tanning process. Leather made from the skins of the larger sharks has very considerable body, and such sharks will be in greatest demand if the experi-

ments of the Bureau of Fisheries prove as successful as anticipated, although the skins of minor sharks and the grayfish also are being handled.

Arrangements Made for Supply of Skins.

Arrangements have been made for securing from Florida fishermen a supply of very large shark skins; and further specimens are expected from other sources, especially from a number of lightships off the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The Bureau of Lighthouses is cooperating in this matter and will authorize the men on southern lightships to catch sharks and preserve their skins.

The Bureau of Fisheries is supplying fishing tackle. The skins will be sent to tanners for treatment in various ways, and it is hoped that such raw material will prove so useful that fishermen on all parts of our coast may hereafter find a market for the skins of all kinds of sharks now incidentally caught in line and net fishing.

The Bureau of Fisheries solicits correspondence with tanners, leather dealers, and manufacturers who may desire to cooperate with it in exploiting this waste product.

CANAL TRAFFIC IN OCTOBER.

[Panama Canal Record, Nov. 22.]

The cargo carried through the Panama Canal in October, amounting to 647,893 tons (231,016 tons from Atlantic to Pacific, 416,877 tons from Pacific to Atlantic), has been exceeded during but three months since the opening of the canal, on August 15, 1914.

The number of ships passing through the canal in seagoing or commercial service was 158 (74 from Atlantic to Pacific, 84 from Pacific to Atlantic). This number has been exceeded but twice, in July and August, 1915, when 170 and 161 vessels made the passage. By nationality the vessels using the canal in October were: British, 78; American, 28; Japanese, 11; Norwegian, 10; Chilean, 9; Peruvian, 7; Dutch, 5; French, Costa Rican, and Swedish, 2 each; Danish, Italian, Spanish, and Cuban, 1 each.

The tolls earned in October amounted to \$465,949. Of this amount, \$198,592 was for ships passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and \$267,357 for ships from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

COAL IMPORTS AT CURAÇAO.

[Consul George S. Messersmith, Curaçao, Dutch West Indies, Nov. 22.]

The coal imports of Curaçao for the last three years have been as follows: 1913, 54,035 tons; 1914, 57,515 tons; and 1915, 55,973 tons. Practically all this coal is imported by two firms, which have adequate wharfage and other facilities for coaling vessels. There are at present four lines using this port as a coaling station: La Veloce, Cia. Transatlantica de Barcelona, Royal Dutch West India Mail, and the Red D Line. All the coal imported comes from the United States.

The names of the two firms importing coal and engaged in supplying ships are: The Curaçao Trading Co. and S. E. L. Maduro & Sons.

AREA UNDER AGRICULTURE IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Oct. 18.]

The Division of Rural Economy and Agricultural Statistics of the Department of Agriculture in Argentina has just issued its first forecast of the area under wheat, linseed, and oats cultivation during the present agricultural season. This is given by principal Provinces, as follows:

Provinces.	Wheat.	Linseed.	Oats.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Buenos Aires	5,695,758	420,077	1,986,719
Cordoba	4,516,137	864,865	61,776
Santa Fe	1,976,835	1,304,711	74,131
Entre Rios	840,155	494,208	103,783
Pampa Central	2,535,280	74,130	224,862
San Luis and other Provinces and Territories	444,788	49,420	74,131
Total for 1916-17	16,088,963	3,207,411	2,525,402
Total for 1915-16	16,420,083	4,000,616	2,564,939

These figures show a slight diminution compared with the preceding season, largely on account of the long-continued drought during the first five or six months of the present agricultural year. The area seeded to wheat, oats, and linseed which was lost in certain sections through the entire lack of rainfall has now been reploughed and planted with maize. Supplies of machinery, twine, and bags, and storage facilities are reported as adequate, and no difficulty from that source will be experienced when the harvest commences.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF FOOD PRICES.

[Vice Consul Leslie E. Reed, London, Nov. 22.]

The local press publishes an order in council which gives wide powers to the British board of trade for the control of the sale and consumption of foodstuffs and other articles of commerce. Briefly stated, it gives the board of trade "in the interests of the public and for maintaining the supply of any article of commerce" power to—

1. Prevent the waste or unnecessary destruction of any specified article.
2. Restrict and prescribe the use of any article.
3. Regulate the manufacture and production of articles so that the public may be supplied with those articles "in the form most suitable in the circumstances."
4. Direct the mode of sale and distribution of articles.
5. Regulate "the market operations" in an article "with a view to preventing an unreasonable inflation of the price."
6. Prevent the sale of an article at a price exceeding an amount named.
7. Require the owners of stocks of articles to place them at the disposal of the board on terms to be determined by arbitration in default of agreement.
8. Compel a detailed return to be made of available supplies.
9. Enter premises where articles are "kept, stored, manufactured, or produced," and examine the stock and test the accuracy of any return that may have been made.

Failure to comply with these regulations is punishable by imprisonment with or without hard labor for not exceeding six months, or a fine not exceeding £100 (\$486), or both. The goods involved may also be forfeited.

METHODS EMPLOYED BY NITRATE PURCHASERS IN CHILE.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Nov. 3.]

Persons seeking to obtain supplies of sodium nitrate in Chile will find that the companies usually sell the product by means of a standard form of contract. Those making purchases are either large exporting firms or else brokers in Valparaiso who buy contracts as a speculation. The contracts call for the delivery of a definite number of quintals (of 101.4 pounds each), of a definite quality, at a specified time, at a specified port. Deliveries are always understood to be in lighters free alongside ship. All arrangements regarding freight, shipping, stevedoring, etc., are for the account of the purchaser. These contracts are sold by purchasers if they can not use the nitrate themselves.

Output Usually Engaged Months Ahead.

A nitrate company usually has its output engaged for many months in advance and so has no stock for sale to other buyers. The way to obtain supplies is to buy a contract from some broker or shipper, though frequently the companies may have some stock on hand not covered by contracts which they may sell as they choose. It is not advisable to depend on this contingency, however.

The leading brokers are in Valparaiso, and most of the nitrate companies also have their principal offices there. The branch offices in the nitrate ports take their instructions from Valparaiso and can not do business independently. In case one of the firms here is not inclined to do business with an American purchaser the latter should endeavor to induce one of the brokers at Valparaiso to act for him.

Difficulties in Way of Chartering Vessels.

It is hardly likely that freights can be arranged at this end, as the chartering market once on this coast has disappeared since the war started, and vessels arriving are found to be chartered for the outward trip from here. Prospective shippers might get in touch with the coal firms shipping from Newport News or Baltimore, and also from Australia, and firms which furnish schooners to bring down lumber from Oregon and Washington. Several steamers recently have come here in ballast from Buenos Aires to load nitrate.

[Recent Chilean nitrate statistics were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 24, 1916. General conditions in the industry were discussed in the issue of Mar. 22, 1916, and shipping conditions in that of May 3, 1916.]

GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF WINE INDUSTRY.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Italy, Oct. 21.]

Agriculturists and wine dealers generally continue, as during the past year, to be somewhat anxious as to the exact meaning of the various Government measures regulating the production of wines. For instance, a recent regulation prohibits the sale of "secondi vini" (the product of the second pressing operation of the grapes after the first and better wine has been secured), and it appears probable that legislation is likely to result in regard to the exact legal definition of the term "secondo vino."

Owing to the high prices and scarcity of sugar, the Government has also forbidden the use of this commodity for wine-making purposes, exceptions being made in the case of vermouth and effervescing wines, where special licenses must be procured.

FRENCH ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES WHEAT RAISING.

[Vice Consul Davis B. Levis, St. Etienne, Nov. 13.]

In order to coordinate the efforts to develop the largest area and highest quality of wheat in the Department of the Loire, the advisory committee of the Grain Growers' Association has called for a wider and more energetic action on the part of its members, in conjunction with millers, brewers, maltsters, flour and grain dealers, and allied interests, on all subjects bearing on the increased production and higher standards of wheat and other grains, through better methods of cultivation and more careful and scientific selection of seeds. In addition to a campaign for more members and the distribution of literature, practical assistance has been given to farmers by arranging with certain millers to take local wheat in exchange for seed wheat raised in other countries, which has demonstrated superior qualities and is likely to prove more prolific and of higher grade. Especial mention is made of Manitoba wheat, which has recently been experimented with on a large scale with very satisfactory results, an indication that seed wheat from the northwestern States might find a market here. A considerable quantity of clover seed has recently been exported from this district to the United States.

The Department of the Loire has 680,000 acres of tillable land, with climatic conditions somewhat similar to those in the grain-growing sections of the United States that have ample rainfall and are without the extremes of heat and cold for long periods. It produces in normal years 1,500,000 bushels of wheat, 1,750,000 bushels of rye, and 700,000 bushels of oats.

RAIN DELAYS GRINDING OF DOMINICAN SUGAR CANE.

[Vice Consul Carl M. J. von Ziehlinski, Santo Domingo, Nov. 23.]

Recent rains have delayed the grinding of the Dominican sugar crop from two to three weeks. Not only is the crop unfit for grinding at the present time, but the rain has made the roads over which the cane is moved almost impassable. Even in the vicinity of Santo Domingo light carriages will get stuck in the mud after leaving the city's limits.

According to the records kept by the department of public works at Santo Domingo City the rainfall from October 1 to November 23, 1914, amounted to 3.88 inches, and during the corresponding period in 1915 it was 6.07 inches. This year the precipitation between the dates named totaled 22.67 inches. Similar conditions prevail throughout this consular district, which embraces the southern half of the Republic, where practically all the sugar estates are situated. It is believed that the grinding will not begin until the latter half of December.

Exports from Amoy to the Philippine Islands.

The total value of the articles invoiced at the American consulate at Amoy, China, for the Philippine Islands increased in value from \$76,063 for the first nine months of 1915 to \$83,511 for the same period in 1916. The principal items were preserved vegetables, grass cloth, ground nuts, vermicelli, beans, and tea.

PROSPECTIVE PURCHASE OF NEW RAILWAY EQUIPMENT.

[Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Colombia, Nov. 9.]

The railway (Ferrocarril de Girardot) connecting the city of Bogota with Girardot, the head of navigation on the Magdalena River, is contemplating the purchase of new equipment. The management has recommended the acquisition of 12 locomotives (8 "Kitson" and 4 "Consolidation"), 12 passenger coaches, and 25 freight cars.

This railroad is narrow gauge, 112 miles in length, and has transported freight during the past three years in the following quantities: 1914, 68,800 long tons; 1915, 73,800 tons; and 1916 (estimated), 81,250 tons.

There are at present in service 14 locomotives, 23 coaches, and 88 freight cars. The freight cars have a capacity of 20 tons, but owing to the heavy grades the loads carried are small. The average train is composed of four cars. The management is studying the question of purchasing 80-ton locomotives in order to increase the length of the trains.

The purchase of new equipment is in the hands of Mr. Daniel J. Reyes, manager of the line. His address is: Gerente del Ferrocarril de Girardot, Bogota, Colombia. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

PREPARED TO PLACE BIG ORDER FOR MANDOLIN KEYS.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Catania, Italy, Nov. 4.]

The president of the Catania Chamber of Commerce has informed the American consul that there is a great scarcity and demand in this district for fittings for mandolins. Mother-of-pearl is desired for inlaid work, and tortoise shell and celluloid (black and imitation tortoise shell) are similarly sought. There is a special demand for tuning keys.

The president of the commercial organization writes that the output of mandolins is between 300,000 and 400,000 per annum, and that the industry is suffering because of the difficulty in obtaining fittings. He states that he is prepared to place an order immediately for 50,000 pairs of tuning-key sets of the type indicated by one of the samples, specially marked, accompanying this report, and that he would like to receive cabled information as to the possibility of filling the order.

[Samples of tuning-key sets, and of tortoise shell and celluloid in black and imitation tortoise shell, such as are mentioned in this report, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 82544.]

EQUIPMENT NEEDED AT RUSSIAN PORT.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 23.]

The British vice consul at Theodosia, Russia, on the Black Sea, reports with regard to the proposed improvements at that port that the authorities may decide to purchase winches with new patent booms instead of the four movable lifting cranes that were originally proposed. The 50-ton floating crane will probably not be obtained from abroad but will be built at Theodosia.

[A notice with regard to the port improvements at Theodosia was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 22, 1916.]

CHINA'S WOOLEN-GOODS TRADE AND EXPORTS OF RAW WOOL.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Nov. 2.]

In considering the woollen-goods trade of China it is safe to estimate that at least 35 per cent of the total consumption is due to the foreign population and the remaining 65 per cent may be apportioned to the Chinese who have adopted the Western style of dress and also to those who, while still adhering to the Chinese style of dress, prefer to have their clothes made of woollen goods instead of the customary and less expensive cotton, linen, or silk goods.

Treaty-Port Sales.

While there has been a rapid increase in the sale of woollen goods to Chinese, especially since the establishment of the Republic in 1913, this movement is largely limited to the treaty ports, where the Chinese have for decades been coming in direct contact with things Western. Although it may reasonably be expected that the adoption of Western ways will steadily spread, there are three factors that do much to impede the progress of woollen goods, namely, the conservatism of the race, the superior comfort of the native costume, and the low cost of other than woollen materials. This is evidenced by the fact that many Chinese who have lived for years abroad upon returning to China take up again the dress of their ancestors.

Chinese Native Costumes.

The Chinese do not find the foreign style of dress as well adapted to heat and cold as the native costume. On account of the inadequate heating of Chinese houses, warm clothing is required. As winter comes on it is customary to add from time to time an outer garment, cut in precisely the same pattern as the others. During the coldest weather cotton-padded garments are worn. These outer garments are discarded by degrees until midsummer, when it is not unusual to see laborers and small shopkeepers wearing no upper garment of any description.

Chinese Clothing Materials.

Chinese clothing materials are confined almost entirely to cotton, linen, grass cloth, and silk, and the cost is well suited to the average purchasing power of the people. Woollen cloth has been sold in China for many years, England, and especially Germany, having succeeded in winning the market by adopting a suitable scale of prices. America's sales have been noticeable only since the outbreak of the European war and the attendant advance in prices. With this advance in prices it has been possible for stocks of wools in Shanghai and elsewhere in China to be resold at a profit in European markets. The demand for woollen serges and overcoatings is increasing, and it is doubtless due to high prices alone that are retarding trade. The readiest sales are made in low-grade goods of about 40 per cent cotton and 60 per cent woollen mixtures, the demand for all wool goods coming mainly from foreigners.

American manufacturers seeking an extension of the market for their goods in China should bear in mind that even the beautiful plain and flowered silks worn by the wealthier classes are to be had at comparatively low figures, and that low prices will assist materially in inducing the Chinese to wear wools on a large scale. The Chinese mind is not easily appealed to by the usual talk of quality being cheaper in the end. On the contrary, price is considered first

and last. However, once a satisfactory deal is made, a demand is created, and trade from that buyer is assured. Large profits are more often derived from volume in sales of low-priced goods than from large margins on high-priced goods.

North China Woolen Demands—Woolen and Cotton Blankets.

A recent investigation of the market shows that Manchuria, and especially that portion that is in the Russian sphere of influence, is in need of woolen goods, a number of orders having been placed there. Mukden, situated in an agricultural district, demands only the lower grades of woollens. Tientsin and Peking, on the contrary, require the better grades of serges and overcoatings in blacks, blues, and grays, the same being true of Hankow. Although Shanghai is the port of entry for the ports of the Yangtsze Valley, and supplies northern China up to Harbin, interior dealers come in periodically to do their buying for the coming seasons. The woolen goods market in this port has been slack, due largely to the disturbed condition of the country generally.

There has been a small demand throughout for woolen and cotton blankets, with a tendency on the part of the Chinese dealers to find a substitute for costly woolen ones in a cheaper cotton blanket. There is evidently a volume of trade to be done in China in blankets alone, although most of the business still goes to Europe. The principal sizes and weights are as follows: 60 by 80 inches, 64 by 84 inches; 4½ to 4½ pounds, and singles of 1½ pounds.

Imports of Woolen and Worsted Goods.

The following table shows the gross imports of woolen and worsted goods into Shanghai for 1914 and 1915:

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
WOOLEN AND COTTON MIXTURES.				
Alpacas, lusters, and orleans..... yards.....	299,584	\$54,176	64,629	\$14,077
Army cloth..... do.....	40,474	15,576	7,570	2,366
Astrakhan, imitation..... do.....	20,675	26,791	7,161	8,960
Beaver cloth..... do.....	47,129	22,589	5,043	2,226
Blankets and rugs..... pounds.....	501,667	58,566	3,417	1,732
Cap cloth..... yards.....	16,297	6,062	3,323	1,466
Cashmeres..... do.....	1,814	983	855	335
Coating..... do.....	83,686	45,908	23,118	9,477
Flannel..... do.....	15,244	4,122	5,193	1,264
Leather cloth..... do.....	132,730	67,507	46,386	24,722
Melton cloth..... do.....	185,197	58,653	50,844	12,945
Sealskin..... do.....	18,094	4,944	1,000	274
Serges..... do.....	31,559	17,530	3,695	1,761
Sicilians..... do.....	63,489	14,181	48,515	12,006
Suitings, tweeds, and vestings..... do.....	49,571	26,864	7,639	4,667
Union and poncho cloth..... do.....	1,702,565	586,675	322,843	118,147
Vicunas..... do.....	72,303	28,227	25,922	9,694
Viyella..... do.....	15,270	5,546	18,310	6,473
Other kinds..... do.....		162,442		39,225
WOOLEN MANUFACTURES.				
Bunting..... pieces.....	1,768	7,231	762	3,567
Blankets and rugs..... pounds.....	31,728	14,676	22,221	11,542
Camlets, English..... pieces.....	5,229	54,167	3,147	40,666
Coatings..... yards.....	51,183	53,160	37,669	35,688
Broad, medium, and habit cloth..... do.....	121,851	143,380	16,881	11,634
Lastings, plain, figured, and creped..... pieces.....	15,146	139,831	5,227	61,261
Long clls..... do.....	21,370	94,318	13,190	56,360
Serges..... yards.....	53,433	42,527	28,565	24,820
Spanish stripes..... do.....	150,645	61,079	28,999	14,129
Suitings..... do.....	37,932	37,699	30,253	28,933
Trouserings, tweeds, and vestings..... do.....	12,102	11,380	13,403	9,615
Woolen and worsted yarn..... pounds.....	5,866	3,654	933	698
Wool, "Berlin"..... do.....	680,000	385,237	391,733	232,951
Other..... yards.....	115,192	78,846	53,469	39,620
Total.....		2,334,800		873,414

The imports for the whole of China were as follows:

Articles.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
WOOLEN AND COTTON MIXTURES.				
Alpacas, lusters, and orleans.....yards..	622,982	\$110,614	273,595	\$47,325
Italian cloth and flannels.....		35,893		21,708
Union and poncho cloth.....yards..	2,029,165	699,376	345,468	130,216
Other.....do.....	2,289,213	874,319	568,372	101,160
WOOLEN MANUFACTURES.				
Bunting.....pieces..	2,063	8,479	1,374	6,235
Blankets and rugs.....pounds..	1,073,212	257,613	225,955	97,811
Camlets.....pie. es..	13,147	132,517	6,971	81,868
Cloth.....yards..	178,997	199,870	24,709	21,244
Flannel.....do.....	29,377	9,776	17,058	6,005
Lastings.....pieces..	20,909	191,918	8,896	101,347
Long ellis.....do.....	41,900	176,241	21,530	91,335
Spanish stripes.....yards..	223,908	95,544	70,658	33,421
Woolen and worsted yarn.....pounds..	1,081,067	607,210	633,067	362,054
Other.....yards..	800,420	544,772	375,333	254,356
Total.....		3,944,282		1,359,087

Exports of Raw Wool.

The exports, including reexports, of raw wool from Shanghai to foreign countries and Chinese ports during 1914 and 1915 were as follows:

Kind.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sheep.....pounds..	32,820,265	\$3,684,820	38,780,800	\$5,282,910
Goat.....do.....	1,296,533	220,452	1,054,533	155,524
Camel.....do.....	3,210,800	450,431	3,860,533	543,652
Total.....	37,327,599	4,355,703	43,696,266	5,982,085

The exports of raw wool for the whole of China to foreign countries were as follows:

Kind.	1914		1915	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sheep.....pounds..	40,401,467	\$4,499,049	50,362,000	\$6,810,735
Goat.....do.....	1,312,133	222,353	1,368,533	191,717
Camel.....do.....	3,358,667	468,213	4,137,867	584,157
Total.....	45,072,267	5,189,675	55,868,400	7,586,639

[A previous report on the woolen goods trade of China was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 1, 1915.]

SWISS HAY AND STRAW PRICES.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Nov. 18.]

Owing to a hay and straw shortage in the country and to importation difficulties, maximum prices have been fixed for these commodities by the Swiss Government. The official prices are 30 to 40 per cent above pre-war figures. Recent Swiss cattle exportations are explained in some quarters as due to the serious fodder situation here.

COMMERCE OF PORTUGAL FOR SEVEN MONTHS.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Oct. 27.]

Official statistics have just been issued by the Portuguese Government for the over-sea trade of the Republic for the first seven months of 1915. During recent years Germany had secured a commanding position as the source of supply of manufactured articles, and by painstaking and persistent effort was gradually eliminating its rivals in the field. German salesmen visited this market by the hundreds; German manufacturers extended liberal credits; they perfected shipping facilities, and everything was done to further German trade. During the first seven months of 1914 (up to the declaration of war) Portugal's imports from Germany reached a total value of 8,227,405 escudos, which was equivalent at the exchange then prevailing to \$8,227,405. In the corresponding period of 1915 they fell to 447,528 escudos, or about \$303,216, with an escudo equal to 70 cents. At the same time England increased the volume of its business with Portugal from 12,695,604 escudos to 13,558,449, the United States from 5,748,424 escudos to 6,462,201, and Spain from 418,554 escudos to 1,301,113.

Continental Portugal's total imports decreased in value from 45,634,529 escudos in the first seven months of 1914 to 38,870,211 escudos in the corresponding period of 1915. If the difference in exchange between the escudo at par (equal to \$1) for the former figures and the escudo worth 70 cents for the latter is considered, the volume of import business decreased even more than is indicated by the figures.

It is of special interest to note that manufactured articles such as machinery, automobiles, etc., bought in the first seven months of last year were about half the value of those imported in the corresponding period of 1914, 4,357,011 escudos, against 8,388,484 escudos.

Imports, by Countries.

The following table shows the value in escudos of the total import trade of Lisbon and Oporto, by countries, for the first seven months of 1914 and 1915:

Countries.	January-July, 1914.			January-July, 1915.		
	Lisbon.	Oporto.	Total.	Lisbon.	Oporto.	Total.
	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>
Belgium.....	1, 151, 109	785, 419	1, 946, 528	93, 893	27, 635	121, 528
Brazil.....	202, 123	1, 432, 229	1, 634, 352	678, 821	1, 023, 580	1, 702, 401
United Kingdom.....	8, 205, 938	4, 489, 666	12, 695, 604	8, 091, 181	5, 467, 268	13, 558, 449
France.....	2, 896, 026	1, 228, 884	4, 124, 893	1, 481, 108	831, 830	2, 312, 936
Germany.....	4, 341, 559	3, 885, 846	8, 227, 405	324, 880	122, 648	447, 528
Russia.....	251, 033	322, 015	573, 048	7, 732	45, 237	52, 969
Spain.....	200, 568	127, 988	418, 554	881, 718	419, 395	1, 301, 113
United States.....	2, 681, 772	3, 066, 652	5, 748, 424	2, 922, 116	3, 540, 085	6, 462, 201
Portuguese colonies.....	1, 624, 950	204, 073	1, 829, 023	1, 831, 503	224, 576	2, 056, 079
All other countries.....	4, 836, 973	3, 601, 725	8, 438, 698	7, 204, 186	3, 650, 821	10, 855, 007
Total.....	26, 482, 051	19, 154, 475	45, 636, 529	23, 517, 136	15, 353, 075	38, 870, 211

Articles Supplied by the United States.

More than 90 per cent of the imports from the United States are raw materials—cotton, wheat, petroleum, gasoline, tobacco, wood, and iron being the most important. The iron bands used in baling cork wood come almost entirely from the United States.

Statistics show that the automobile trade was hit hard by the war, and the well-known European makes which previously had a monopoly of this market have almost disappeared. American cars have the market to themselves.

The value in escudos of the principal articles imported into Lisbon and Oporto (arranged according to the official Portuguese classification) from the United States during the first seven months of 1914 and 1915 is shown in the following table:

Articles.	Jan.-July, 1914.	Jan.-July, 1915.	Articles.	Jan.-July, 1914.	Jan.-July, 1915.
	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>		<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>
Animals, live.....	50		Foodstuffs--Continued.		
Raw materials:			Fish.....		500
Animal.....	7,171	63,718	Various.....	2,421	3,216
Vegetable.....	2,782,792	3,338,373	Apparatus, instruments, machines, etc.:		
Mineral.....	313,812	381,679	Apparatus, instruments, machines and utensils.....	128,327	57,969
Metals.....	20,723	209,081	Vessels and vehicles.....	229,566	99,449
Chemicals.....	180,391	205,403	Arms.....	2,004	195
Various.....	44,834	4,451	Various manufactured articles:		
Threads, textiles, fells, and respective products:			Animal material in work.....	258	276
Wool.....	261	77	Vegetable material in work.....	4,561	11,201
Silk.....	219	290	Mineral material in work.....	4,977	5,306
Cotton.....	6,165	138,332	Metals in work.....	86,560	190,631
Linen.....	521	733	Paper lithograph, etc.....	6,145	6,464
Special products.....	751	213	Various.....	14,900	18,353
Foodstuffs:					
Liquids.....	607				
Cereals.....	1,997,837	1,610,274			
Farinaceous.....	6,731	10,357			
Colonial wares.....	2,089	5,088			

American coal is getting a good foothold here and the importations are double those of last year.

Distribution of Exports.

The value in escudos of the exports of merchandise from Lisbon and Oporto during the first seven months of 1914 and 1915, by countries, is shown in the following table:

Countries.	January-July, 1914.			January-July, 1915.		
	Lisbon.	Oporto.	Total.	Lisbon.	Oporto.	Total.
	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>	<i>Escudos.</i>
Belgium.....	219,457	85,529	324,986	32,069	10,361	42,430
Brazil.....	665,03	2,010,889	2,706,292	615,560	1,762,163	2,377,723
United Kingdom.....	1,251,732	2,363,783	3,635,515	1,708,008	2,320,811	4,028,819
France.....	289,497	198,058	487,555	328,454	353,018	681,472
Germany.....	529,847	407,780	937,627	510	34,271	34,781
Russia.....	2,55,20	31,017	290,237	4,620	2,375	6,995
Spain.....	3,2,214	10,994	403,238	235,054	14,787	249,841
United States.....	486,277	29,810	516,087	579,093	34,557	613,650
Portuguese colonies.....	2,509,873	412,130	2,921,993	3,616,962	570,016	4,186,968
All other countries.....	133,528	475,016	1,011,544	955,236	508,144	1,463,390
Total.....	7,166,658	6,078,006	13,244,664	8,075,586	5,610,503	13,686,089

Reexports of foreign merchandise in the seven-month period in 1915 were valued at 3,780,309 escudos, and of colonial merchandise 8,569,157 escudos; in the corresponding period in 1914 the respective values in escudos were 4,214,505 and 7,305,817.

In previous reports this office has frequently taken occasion to mention the trade with Africa through Lisbon and Oporto merchants. Exports from Continental Portugal to the colonies increased from 2,921,983 escudos in the seven-month period of 1914 to

4,186,968 escudos in the corresponding period of last year. This market for American goods is a large one and is worth careful consideration on the part of our exporters. Although the local industry engaged in the manufacture of goods for the African market is important, thousands of dollars' worth of goods are imported annually to supply this trade.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES URGED FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Oct. 18.]

The great need of establishing chemical industries in South Africa was recently urged by a chemist of authority in a series of addresses given in this city. Several points were especially emphasized. He stated that statistics of imports and exports of this country proved conclusively not only that South Africa was compelled to import practically all of the material consumed in the general production of the country, but also that exports were limited chiefly to unrefined metals or their ores, with a certain quantity of agricultural produce, such as maize, feathers, raw hides, wool, etc.

Proposes to Develop Resources of Country.

As such a state of affairs, he asserted, should indicate only the initial stages of progress through which a country passes, South Africa should be seriously contemplating the initiation of new industries. This was necessary, in the first place, to meet the requirements of the present population, and, secondly, in order to develop the resources of the country and to provide for the utilization of raw materials which are known to exist in quantities and in many cases in abundance.

It was further pointed out that the mining industry was the mainstay of the country, and that the outlook in this direction was still good, but that iron manufacture and correlated industries, and the production of glass, cement, soap, condensed milk, sirup, etc., should be investigated.

Iron ores are known to exist in abundance in the Transvaal and surrounding country, but little has been done to exploit them. This, it was urged, necessitates a full and complete chemical investigation, in the first place, and on the basis of the results obtained small-scale trials.

Coal Consumed Has Yielded No By-Products.

The supply of coal to be found in the Union of South Africa is about four-fifths of 1 per cent of the known coal deposits of the world. Practically no by-products have been obtained from the coal consumed.

In 1913, the last completely normal pre-war period, the Union of South Africa imported disinfectants and germicides to the value of \$210,583, most of which could have been produced from coal. Similarly, the imports of glass amounted to more than \$1,216,625 and earthenware to \$745,869. Golden sirup imports were valued at \$658,118, vinegar at \$49,580, confectionery at \$1,273,991, and condensed milk at \$2,262,368.

[Articles on industrial development in South Africa were published in *Commerce Reports* for Aug. 14, Oct. 30, and Nov. 22, 1916. The possibilities in electrochemical industries were discussed in the issue of May 20, 1916.]

TREBIZOND-PLATANA TOBACCO CROP.

[Consul W. L. Jenkins, Trebizond, Turkey, Nov. 3.]

The Trebizond consular district comprises the well-known tobacco sections of Samsun, Bafra, Erzerum, Trebizond, and Platana, which before the war produced one-third of the total tobacco crop of the Ottoman Empire. It is impossible at present to give even an estimate of the crop of the whole district for the year 1916, inasmuch as the territory is divided between belligerent forces. This report is therefore necessarily confined to the Trebizond-Platana section.

In normal times the average annual crop was about 9,000,000 pounds, of which Platana contributed 6,500,000 pounds, or slightly more than two-thirds of the total. The registered crop for 1910 was 6,251,300 pounds; for 1911, 5,236,000; for 1912, 5,937,000 pounds; for 1913, 4,935,000 pounds; and for 1914, 5,900,000 pounds. These figures, however, do not include the unregistered tobacco sold as contraband, ranging from 1,500,000 to 3,000,000 pounds annually. Since the occupation in April, 1916, the monopoly formerly enjoyed by the Tobacco Regie has ceased and now there is no official registry. The total crop for 1916 is stated to be not more than 55,000 pounds.

The present year has witnessed violent fluctuations in the local prices of tobacco. At the beginning it was sold at 26 cents a pound, but dropped to 11 cents at the time of the Turkish evacuation. Later, and as has been mentioned before, the rights of the Tobacco Monopoly ceased, and everyone was free to cut and sell his tobacco. The scarcity of supply, due to the waste of part of the stock on hand and the failure of the 1916 crop, together with the recent heavy demand, forced up the prices. Leaf tobacco jumped from 11 cents to 30 and 35 cents a pound, and at present is selling as high as 50 cents. As practically no tobacco is being exported these are, of course, only local prices. Owing to the high prices obtainable, the attention of the natives is being directed toward the tilling of the soil in preparation for the 1917 plantings; but even the most optimistic do not estimate that the coming crop will exceed 250,000 pounds for the Trebizond district and 700,000 pounds for that of Platana, or at the most a combined total crop of 1,000,000 pounds.

CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Nov. 6; data taken from October Bulletin of Ministry of Agriculture.]

Cool weather and morning fogs tended to check the ripening of immature bolls in many districts. Good progress, however, has been made in picking; the first picking is entirely finished and the second picking is considerably advanced. A third picking will probably not be made in most localities. In any event it will be of little importance.

Gathered bolls show a considerable increase of pink seed worm attack. An increase was also noted in the spread of the ordinary boll-worm (*Earias*), but the attack is insignificant.

The previous forecasts and disappointing result of the crop have been confirmed. The crop is estimated at 5,850,000 Egyptian cantars (of 99.05 pounds each).

SUGAR PRODUCTION OF GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 20.]

Guatemala's production of sugar for the year 1915 was 300,000 quintals, a quintal weighing 100 pounds. This is exclusive of the production of sugar in the form of a cake, known as "panela," which is wholly taken for local consumption. In 1914 the output was 250,000 quintals; in 1913, 240,000 to 250,000 quintals. The bulk of this production each year was exported to the United States and to British Columbia, a small quantity being taken by other Republics of Central America.

The high price of sugar stimulated the planters this year to put an unusually large acreage under cane. The crop is now being cut, but the harvest will not be completed until February, 1917. In the lowlands of the Gulf and the Pacific coasts the yield has been abundant, but in the higher regions the output will be curtailed somewhat owing to the exceptionally cold weather that has prevailed this season. While statistics as to this year's crop are not yet available, it is estimated that in view of the increased acreage and the abundant crops in the lowlands the total production will at least equal and very probably exceed that of 1915.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Nov. 14.]

Official statistics of unemployment in the Netherlands brought down to the end of September, 1916, show continued reductions in comparison with 1915 and the second half of 1914. The statistics cover the most important trades. The unemployed were 4.6 per cent of the total number of workers in September of this year against 10 and 27.2 per cent at the corresponding time in 1915 and 1914, respectively. The diamond cutting and polishing trade accounted for most of the unemployed in each of the three years. Excluding that trade, the unemployment at the end of September, 1914, was 15.4 per cent, 4.7 per cent in 1915, and 2 per cent in 1916.

Of the trades listed only two (mining and agriculture) showed no unemployment in 1915 and 1916. The next lowest was the leather trade—two-tenths of 1 per cent this year. No trade reached 3 per cent this year excepting those connected with transportation (17.4 per cent) and diamonds (38.3 per cent), both being adversely affected by the war.

SALES RESULT FROM VISIT OF CONSULAR OFFICER.

The interest taken by the manufacturers and exporters of the United States in the visits of American consular officers, while on leave, to various sections of the country has been commented on in *COMMERCE REPORTS*. The good that results from this personal contact between manufacturer and consular officer is well typified by the recent visit to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce's New York office of Consul General E. D. Winslow, whose post is Copenhagen, Denmark. The sale of \$15,000 worth of electrical machinery and of 5,000 tons of fertilizer to Copenhagen firms were among the transactions closed, and Copenhagen agencies for electrical machinery, pianos, and asbestos products were established.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany.	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Customhouse, New York City, until Dec. 9.
Bucklin, George A.	Bordeaux, France.	Jan. 13	Lynn Haven, Fla., until Dec. 4.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana.	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.	Santos, Brazil.	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.	Barmen, Germany.	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.	Corinto, Nicaragua.	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 704 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas	Riga, Russia.	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.	Dundee, Scotland.	Jan. 1	Do.
Listoe, Soren	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	Jan. 15	"Edlington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil	Cologne, Germany.	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smit, Felix Willoughby	Tiflis, Russia.	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendall, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.	Calcutta, India.	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell	Cornwall, Ontario.	Dec. 23	1101 Euclid Street NW, Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon.	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard	Quebec, Quebec.	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece.	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

PROPOSED LIVE-STOCK DEPARTMENT IN URUGUAY.

The President of Uruguay has recommended to the general assembly the creation of a department of live stock, to operate under the Ministry of Industries. Some of the officials of the new department would be appointed by the Government, and others would be named by the Rural Association of Uruguay and the Agronomical Institute. The President outlines the need for a central organization to direct the live-stock industry, thus combining in one department the various offices in charge of inspection, animal diseases, marks and brands, and import and export requirements. The proposed law, which is published in the *Diario Oficial* of October 20, indicates the important position held by the live-stock industry in Uruguay.

MOTORCYCLES IN DENMARK.

[Vice Consul Axel Permin, Copenhagen, Nov. 16.]

Latest statistics, compiled September 1, 1916, put the number of registered motorcycles in Denmark at 7,766, with total indicated horsepower of 23,066, or an average of 3 horsepower per cycle against $2\frac{1}{2}$ horsepower in 1914. Of the total number of motorcycles in 1916 Copenhagen had 1,862, 2,350 were in the provisional cities, and 3,554 in the rural districts.

In 1915 the number of motorcycles was 6,347; in 1914 it was 5,148; in 1912 the total was 4,507; and in 1909 it was 3,467.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Automobiles and accessories.....	23214, 23218	Machinery, bolt making, etc.....	23212
Chemical products.....	23219	Sugar.....	23215
Cotton piece goods.....	23216	Toilet articles.....	23220
Hardware, shelf.....	23212	Trucks, motor.....	23218
Leather for gloves and mittens.....	23212	Tubes, collapsible.....	23211
Lighting fixtures, electric.....	23213		

23211.*—A man in Switzerland would like to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of all sizes of collapsible tubes for tooth paste, etc. Samples are desired. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23212.†—A civil engineer of Uruguay wishes to get in touch with American manufacturers of bolts, nuts, rivets, and nails, and machinery for making same. Reference.

23213.*—A firm in Portugal desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of electric-lighting fixtures. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23214.*—The owner of a garage in Spain is desirous of purchasing American automobiles and accessories. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made in cash. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23215.*—A chocolate manufacturing company in Switzerland is in the market for large quantities of sugar, to be used in the manufacture of chocolate. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.

23216.†—A man in Peru would like to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton piece goods. References.

23217.*—A firm in Norway desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers and exporters of leather for gloves and mittens. Samples of the quality and colors desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 82094.) Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23218.*—A man in Spain desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles and trucks. Correspondence in Spanish or French. Reference.

23219.*—A firm in Switzerland wishes to purchase or to obtain an agency for general chemical products. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.

23220.*—A man in Portugal is in the market for perfumeries, soaps, powders, etc. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. American port, indicating freight rate. Bank credit will be arranged in New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

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PORTUGUESE FIGS FOR AMERICAN MARKET.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Nov. 16.]

Shipments of Portuguese dried figs to the United States this year to date amount to 10,670,888 pounds, valued at \$431,288, compared with 2,590,141 pounds, valued at \$112,918, in 1915, and 1,947,238 pounds, valued at \$64,474, in 1914.

The United States is about the only market still open to these figs, the greater part of which were shipped in former years to Germany and Russia, via Holland.

Most of the fruit is raised in the southern Province, the Algarve. The greater shipments have been from the ports of Faro and Portimão, one ship taking a complete cargo of 2,500 tons of figs for New York.

Portugal also exports a large quantity of specially prepared figs, put up in fancy pasteboard boxes, weighing from 1 to 10 pounds. This fruit keeps fresh for months and has a large local trade. The center of the industry is at Elvas, near the Spanish frontier.

BRITISH TRADE IN TEXTILE MACHINERY.

[Textile Mercury, Manchester, England.]

For the period of 10 months ended October 31, 1916, the total value of textile machinery imported into the United Kingdom was £232,433 (£=\$1.8665), compared with £213,980 for the corresponding period last year. The exports of such machinery for the month of October amounted to £427,013, against £304,418 in October, 1915. The value of the exports of textile machinery to all European countries during the month amounted to £156,360, compared with £104,862 for the corresponding period of 1915.

China and Japan considerably increased their October takings, as compared with last year. In the case of the former country, the respective amounts were £12,698 and £5,242, while those of Japan were £70,471 and £18,608. The United States shows a decline from £29,167 for October, 1915, to £26,743 for October, 1916, but countries in South America have taken machinery to the value of £18,268, whereas a year ago the corresponding amount was £7,068.

NORWAY'S SHIPPING LOSSES.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Nov. 12.]

According to the statistics of the Norwegian Department of Commerce, Norway's mercantile marine decreased by 34 vessels of 44,831 tons during October. There were 65 vessels of 77,287 tons taken off the register and 31 vessels of 32,456 tons added to the register. Of the gross decrease, 57 vessels of 69,482 tons were lost through war causes. Norway's shipping sustained especially heavy losses during September and October, of an estimated value of over \$10,000,000.

At the beginning of the war a mutual war insurance society was formed under the auspices of the Norwegian Government. The principles under which this society operates are similar to those adopted by the British Government with this difference, that whereas under the British plan the Government is responsible for the greater part of the losses sustained, while under the Norwegian plan this responsibility falls upon the shipowners collectively. Under the present law, which was passed on August 21, 1914, and amended in certain particulars on July 16, 1915, and May 26, 1916, it was arranged to make insurance compulsory on practically all shipowners. Under this system, shipowners are obliged to deposit funds or furnish securities sufficient to cover any possible deficit in the final liquidation. In the same manner they are entitled to share in any possible surplus. No risks are taken on business that conflicts with the rules of the belligerents as regards absolute contraband. As a result of the recent large losses, the mutual insurance society has decided to make substantial increases in war premiums.

Orders for New Tonnage—Cost of Building Cargo Vessels.

The losses to Norway's shipping arising from the war have been greater than those experienced by any other neutral and stand second to those of only Great Britain and France. In spite of this gradual reduction in tonnage, Norwegian shipowners have placed orders for a large amount of new tonnage in home and foreign yards. The total amount can not be definitely stated, but it is estimated at about 1,200,000 tons, a large amount of which is to be built in American yards. A considerable number of steamers are to be constructed in Canada and some in China. Newly built steamers have also been recently purchased in Japan. The ships in hand or on order in Norway number 155, of 171,120 tons. The cost of all this new tonnage, however, is very high.

The cost of building ordinary cargo vessels in Norway before the war was between \$35 and \$40 per ton, according to the size of the vessel. Owing to the greatly increased cost of material, labor, etc., prices have increased considerably, and it has been reported that some of the latest contracts that call for fairly prompt delivery have been executed at about \$187 per ton. Under a good many contracts, however, deliveries are to take longer and run in some cases to the end of 1918. Such contracts, which have been largely placed in the United States and Canada, have been concluded at from \$130 to \$150 per ton, according to time of delivery.

Shipbuilding in Norway—Service to India.

There has been a steady development of shipbuilding in Norway. Existing yards are being extended, and old ones that have been closed or limited to small repair work are being reorganized and

extended and used for new construction, but the country being deficient in steel supplies is dependent upon foreign yards for the largest part of its tonnage. Normally Norway could not produce much over 50,000 tons per annum, although this amount may now be slightly greater. The latest official returns show that in 1914 the local yards built 112 steamers or motor boats of a net registered tonnage of 51,429 and 9 sailing vessels of 1,207 tons. Some progress is being made in the construction of motor-propelled vessels. Efforts in this direction, however, are still confined to the building of small ships, but a number of companies are extending their building berths and laying down new plant for the special purpose of dealing with this new type of vessel. The more important of the Norwegian orders have gone to the United States, where one Norwegian syndicate alone has ordered twelve 3,000-ton motor ships, all to be built in Maryland.

Four Scandinavian companies are reported to be interested in the establishment of regular service of cargo ships, driven by internal-combustion engines, from Europe to the principal ports of India, Ceylon, and Burma. The employment of oil as fuel has been adopted because of the length of the round trip, which would necessitate coaling frequently at ports where the price of coal is high, even in normal times.

SINGAPORE MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR 1917.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, Straits Settlements.]

The Singapore municipal budget for 1917 shows estimated revenue of \$2,157,230, of which \$973,777 is the anticipated receipts from taxes on houses, buildings, and lands and general water tax; \$126,619 from taxes on carriages, horses, carts, and dogs; \$507,159 from licenses on carriages, drivers' fees, rents, reimbursements, and miscellaneous sources; \$473,829 from water rents and charges; \$3,132 net revenue from the electricity department, and \$72,714 net revenue from the gas department. The expenditure for the year is placed at \$2,188,229, divided as follows: Personal emoluments, \$322,752; annually recurrent expenditures, \$502,974; disbursements recoverable, \$188,594; special services, \$320,636; miscellaneous services, \$74,353; interest, sinking funds, and repayments on loans, \$162,864; and other charges, \$76,178; also on water department, \$500,810; capital expenditure on electricity department, \$28,562; and capital expenditure on gas department, \$10,506.

The estimated revenues are based upon a proposed consolidated rate or tax of 12 per cent on the value of all houses, buildings, and other than agricultural land, and tenements within the municipality; a consolidated rate of 5 per cent on all lands used for agricultural purposes; and a separate and additional rate of 3 per cent on the value of all houses, buildings, lands, and tenements which have access to the municipal water supply under certain regulations. There is also proposed an improvement rate of 2 per cent and an education rate of 1 per cent on houses, buildings, lands, etc. Special taxes are also provided on traction engines, carriages, carts, wagons, motor cars, jinrickshas, bicycles, tricycles, horses, and mules varying from \$1.15 for bicycles and tricycles and \$2.85 for horses and mules to \$6.80 for carriages, \$13.60 and \$28.40 for small and large motor cars, and \$57 for motor trucks.

GRAPE AND WINE YIELD OF ITALY IN 1916.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, Nov. 11.]

According to the provisional estimate of the Minister of Agriculture, Bureau of Agrarian Statistics, the Italian grape crop of 1916 totals about 5,924,600 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), which will produce a trifle less than 39,000,000 hectoliters (1,030,265,000 gallons) of wine. The yield of both grapes and wine is far in excess of 1915, which was a disastrous year; but is below the average for the seven-year period 1909 to 1915, namely, 6,470,700 tons of grapes and 41,742,000 hectoliters (1,102,662,000 gallons) of wine. The average for this seven-year period give a true norm, as it includes the "fat" year of 1909, when the grape crop was over 9,600,000 tons, and the "lean" year of 1915, when the crop was only a little over 3,000,000 tons.

Italy's production of grapes and wine from 1909 to 1916 (the last-named year being officially estimated after the harvest) was as follows:

Year.	Grapes.		Wine.	
	Metric tons.	Ratio to average.	Gallons.	Ratio to average.
1909	9,612,780	148.5	1,631,852,600	147.9
1910	4,673,640	72.2	773,840,900	70.1
1911	6,514,000	100.6	1,126,793,300	102.2
1912	6,683,600	103.2	1,165,599,400	105.7
1913	7,999,200	123.6	1,380,026,500	125.1
1914	6,799,600	105.0	1,137,148,300	103.1
1915	3,012,200	46.5	503,376,900	45.6
1916	5,924,600	91.6	1,030,264,900	91.4

It is estimated by the Venice Chamber of Commerce that out of each year's national harvest about 200,000 tons of grapes are used for food in all Italy.

Good Demand for New Vintage.

The favorite table grape in this section is a variety known in America as the "Concord" but called here "Uva Americana" or "Uva Fragola," the name of strawberry grape being given to it on account of its delightful aroma and flavor. This grape is but little used for making wine, although identical with the "grape juice" quality in America.

In making the bulk of the grape harvest into wine there is a certain loss that varies from locality to locality on account of climate and adaptability of the soil to viniculture; and from year to year on account of heat, rain, and plant diseases; and from one grape grower to another on account of differences in fertilization and scientific growing and handling of the crops. But taking all these things into consideration it is estimated that on an average 100 kilos (220.46 pounds) of grapes will make 67 liters (17.7 gallons) of wine.

Because of the meager grape and wine production of 1915 the reserves of wine left over from the more prosperous years have been used up, especially among the small dealers, and consequently the demand for the wine of the 1916 vintage is active on the Italian

market. Italian red wine, first quality, of this season's vintage, sells at 65 to 75 lire per hectoliter (\$0.475 to \$0.548 per gallon), and second quality at 58 to 64 lire (\$0.424 to \$0.468 per gallon) at the wine press of the producer.

ELEVEN MONTHS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

The United States Bureau of Navigation reports 1,066 sailing, steam, gas, and unrigged vessels, of 488,446 gross tons, built in the United States and officially numbered during the 11 months of the calendar year 1916, as follows:

Classes of ships.	Atlantic and Gulf.		Pacific.		Great Lakes.		Western rivers.		Total.	
	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.	Num-ber.	Gross.
WOOD.										
Sailing.....	43	11,949	6	3,903					49	15,852
Steam.....	25	3,938	12	5,696	10	795	13	1,345	60	11,774
Gas.....	208	6,998	160	8,601	26	459	94	1,557	488	17,645
Unrigged.....	204	68,053	76	8,670	33	4,360	26	922	339	82,006
Total.....	480	90,938	254	26,870	69	5,614	133	3,854	936	127,276
METAL..										
Sailing.....	1	562			1	2,320			2	2,882
Steam.....	49	193,205	8	51,923	34	88,364	4	687	95	334,081
Gas.....	7	7,068	1	213	6	9,808	4	1,509	18	18,598
Unrigged.....	9	3,977			4	1,608	2	24	15	5,009
Total.....	66	204,812	9	52,136	45	102,102	10	2,120	130	361,170
General totals:										
Sailing.....	44	12,511	6	3,903	1	2,820			51	18,734
Steam.....	74	197,143	20	57,619	40	89,161	17	1,932	151	345,855
Gas.....	215	14,066	161	8,814	36	10,267	98	3,096	510	36,243
Unrigged.....	213	72,090	76	8,670	37	5,968	28	946	354	87,614
Grand total..	546	295,750	263	79,006	114	107,716	143	5,974	1,066	488,446

In addition, there were built for foreigners 36 wooden vessels of 372 gross tons and 13 steel vessels of 33,265 gross tons; total, 49 vessels of 33,637 gross tons.

TO EXTEND FARM EDUCATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 25.]

At a conference held by the Acting Minister of Agriculture of this Province with the Secretary for Agriculture, the Superintendent of Dairy and Live Stock, and the Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm it was decided to extend materially the scope of the summer education that the Government has been offering gratuitously to the farmers.

The "Better Farming Special," a train equipped as a traveling demonstration school, is to start in July, 1917, and remain for several days in various districts for public meetings and to afford the advantages of personal instruction on farming matters generally, and along special lines where required, for the greatest possible number of farmers. In previous years the lectures have been delivered from the train at the stations along its route, where short stops only were made.

CONDITION OF OLIVE CROP OF SOUTHERN SPAIN.

[Vice Consul Malcolm E. Graham, Seville, Nov. 10.]

A peculiarity of the olive tree is that it does not produce a large crop two years in succession, for after a good season the tree is so weakened that the following year's production is always considerably smaller and poorer in quality. Such are the conditions at present, and on account of the small quantity of fruit the ravages of insects have been more keenly felt. Diseases have also caused considerable damage.

The queen crop, which is the one most noticeably affected, is practically a failure, and it is thought that the production will be only about one-tenth of the usual good crop, and faulty and poor in quality. At least 35 per cent of the fruit is said to have rotted, the loss from this cause ranging from 20 per cent in some districts to complete loss in others. The number of hogsheads cured is placed at 3,500, and it is estimated that 2,500 will be available for shipment.

The manzanillas have fared better, as the tree is more hardy, and the damage is estimated at 15 per cent. The crop will be small, however, and will probably not reach more than one-sixth that of last year. Estimates vary considerably as to the number of hogsheads which will be available for shipment. The production of oil olives is affected to about the same extent as the manzanillas.

Shipment of olives and oil is at present handicapped considerably by lack of tonnage, and many hogsheads, already sold, have been in Seville some time awaiting shipment.

SPANISH MEASURES TO AVERT HIGH BREAD PRICES.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 6.]

The rise in the price of wheat in the United States and Argentina has caused concern in Spain, where quotations are soaring in consequence.

Until recently the Spanish Committee of Maritime Transports has been able to import wheat at a rate which permitted bread to be sold at \$0.0393 and \$0.0409 a pound. Early in September the committee fixed freight rates on North American and Argentine wheat. Arrangements also were made to use foreign vessels for importing wheat in case the capacity of Spanish vessels was inadequate to bring the required quantity with celerity. Were it not for the increased price at the ports of origin the measures adopted by the committee would have kept down the cost.

Home Consumption Increases and Morocco Gets Supply.

Although the Spanish wheat crop will probably exceed 4,000,000 tons, compared with 3,800,000 last year, it is estimated that it will be necessary to import 100,000 tons more to meet the requirements for the present year. The situation is rendered acute by the fact that the consumption of bread in Spain has increased 20 per cent, probably on account of the rise in price of other comestibles, combined with the situation in Morocco, which formerly drew its supply from other sources, but is now using wheat shipped from Spain.

In various cities throughout the Peninsula the price of bread has risen. Barcelona has a provision board authorized to control the supply and price of provisions. Until recently it has been able to keep down the price of flour, and consequently bread has been sold at \$0.0409 per pound.

Bought Additional Quantity at Higher Prices.

Late in October the board obtained from the millers 16,500 sacks of flour, equivalent to a shipment of wheat from abroad, and of this flour 1,500 sacks a day were sold for 11 days at the rate of \$3.93 per 100 pounds. The average consumption of flour in Barcelona is 2,400 sacks a day, so that the bakers were forced to buy 900 additional sacks every day at the prevailing market price, which ran as high as \$4.34 per 100 pounds. As there is no prospect of the board's being able to obtain further supplies at the cheaper rate, the guild of Barcelona bakers has issued a statement that, on and after November 5, 1916, bread will be sold at \$0.045 per pound.

[Articles relating to Spanish measures to provide for better supplies of wheat and flour were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Mar. 11, June 13, and Aug. 14, 1916.]

AMSTERDAM STREET CAR LINES NUMBERED.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Nov. 14.]

The electric street-car service of Amsterdam is municipally owned and managed. Its annual receipts are nearly \$2,000,000, with a profit of about 10 per cent. No deficit has ever occurred under the city management.

The lines of cars are numbered from 1 to 19, and have a total of 40 miles of track. The cars bear their respective numbers and signs to show the starting and terminal points and important intermediate places. When the routes are known, however, the lines are always referred to by their numbers.

The trolley support is formed of two arms, about 2 feet apart from the base up to near the top, where the space widens to about 4 feet, the width of the horizontal rod which touches and travels along the overhead wire. Thus there is never the trouble or delay caused by the trolley getting off the wire, as where a wheel is used.

Other Cities Adopt System of Numbering.

Between the arms of the trolley support hangs the number of each line, in large figures plainly visible several hundred feet distant. The number is also shown against glass at each end of the car, and is illuminated at night. This system of numbering, which is believed to have originated in Amsterdam, is now extending widely over Europe.

Although there are 19 lines in the city, this does not mean 19 wholly distinct tracks, but that they have different termini. Only two lines have exclusive tracks of their own; three follow tracks also used by other lines, and the rest have some exclusive trackage toward their termini.

The service is considered excellent in the extent to which the city is covered and the supply of rolling stock. The fare is the equivalent of 2 American cents for any distance, but without transfers.

SCOTCH TESTS OF MOTOR TRACTORS.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Nov. 20.]

The possibilities of the motor tractor on farms in Scotland have been demonstrated in Midlothian, Forfar, Elgin, Ayr, and other counties during the past few months. These exhibition tests, which have been encouraged by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, the Highland Agricultural Society, and the agricultural colleges, have been uniformly satisfactory in plowing. Under fair conditions a 24-horsepower machine operated by two men turned over three furrows 10 inches wide and 7 inches deep at the rate of an acre or more an hour. When used to drive thrashing mills, crushers, cutters, etc., and for haulage purposes, also, the tractors have made an excellent record, with the result that farmers are keenly interested in the types of these machines that are designed with a view to their easy manipulation.

American Machine Receives Approval.

An American tractor which is listed at £285 (\$1,387), weighs 43 hundredweight, and runs on paraffin oil, recently gave a good account of itself by cutting 3 clean furrows with a Dux plow, 7 to 7½ inches deep, prompting the North British Agriculturist to say that "the machine appeared to be quite capable of drawing a 4-furrow plow at the same depth." On this occasion members of the Board of Agriculture and many influential farmers were present, and the opinion was generally expressed that tractors must play a great part in the future of Scotch agriculture. On this subject the Galashiels Border Telegraph says editorially:

It is claimed for a tractor with which trials are being made, that it is a general utility machine, accomplishing plowing, cutting, and thrashing work, and the tests that already have been made show that it is admirably adapted for all work of this kind, and that there is a large saving compared with the use of horses. The great need at present is for more land to be put under cultivation. Probably the advent of the motor tractor will solve the problem. The motor has revolutionized many things; even farmers have recognized this and are largely using it now instead of the trap and the old cob. Why should they not go a step further and utilize it for work in their fields just as they are now utilizing it for the road? Great possibilities lie before this new industrial power, which may soon revolutionize work on the land.

[A previous report on motor tractors on Scotch farms was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 17, 1916.]

PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN CHILE.

An extra session of the Chilean Congress was called on October 11 to consider, among others, the following subjects: The budget for 1917; the creation of a department of industry, agriculture, and colonization; fostering of the merchant marine; increase of consular fees; change in tariff law, including duties on wool yarn; workmen's compensation; preference for domestic products in Government orders; water rights; railway leases and concessions. In addition to the general projects the Diario Oficial mentions various particular proposals for concessions and contracts that are awaiting the action of Congress.

NEED OF FARM-OPERATING EQUIPMENT IN RUSSIA.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 23.]

The British acting consul general at Odessa reports a statement in the *Russkoe Slovo* (Moscow) of October 4, to the effect that the Russian Minister of Agriculture, when introducing his departmental estimates in the Duma, stated that the lack of labor was making itself severely felt and that the use of implements and machinery for agricultural purposes in Russia must be largely extended. The Department of Agriculture, therefore, proposed to give large orders to American firms. The minister also stated that the agriculturists of Russia, who were paying high prices owing to the state of foreign exchange and were dependent upon foreign manufacturers, would probably remain subject after the war to the influence of the slightest complication in international politics and commerce unless steps were taken to develop technical production in Russia, particularly the manufacture of agricultural machinery.

The British vice consul at Kharkof has reported on this subject as follows:

Although there will evidently be an enormous shortage of agricultural machinery in Russia, it is thought that the prospects of large sales of British machinery are not very promising. Except in large thrashing machinery, agricultural oil engines, and fodder-preparing machines, the British type of machinery is unsuited to Russian conditions. Russian manufacturers, with the assistance of the present subsidies and, probably, higher tariffs in the future, will be able rapidly to increase their output and satisfy the needs of the country to a very large extent, thus making it fairly independent of imported goods. Certain types of plows formerly imported are already manufactured in Russia in large quantities, and at an exhibition of agricultural machinery held at Moscow last year, remarkable progress was shown in the manufacture of all types of harvesting machinery. Many large works in Russia now producing war materials can readily be adapted for the manufacture of such heavy machinery as steam thrashers, tractors, and oil engines.

EARNINGS OF THE SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Oct. 28.]

The annual report for 1915 of the Sierra Leone Government railway, recently issued, states that the gross revenue of the railway that year was \$711,171, against \$723,097 in 1914, a falling off of \$11,927; but that there was a gain of \$8,345 in the traffic earnings. Earnings over working expenses reached \$186,747, or 2.54 per cent on the total capital expenditure.

The number of passengers carried, including Government and construction officials, last year was 467,594, a decrease of only 438 from the figures of 1914; but the freight carried amounted to 56,118 tons, as compared with 51,665 tons in the preceding year.

The length of the railway is now 317 miles. The trunk line from Freetown to Pendembu is 227 miles; the branch from Boia to Makene, 82 miles, and from Freetown to Hill Station, 5 miles.

The proposed extension to Baga was stopped at Kamabai, 104 miles from Boia and about 12 miles south of the original terminus. Although approaching completion at the end of the year, it was decided not to continue the line at present; the roadbed was completed to within 3 miles of Baga.

NORWEGIAN MARKET FOR FRUIT.

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Oct. 23.]

There is a very good market for fresh, canned, and dried fruit in Bergen, and large quantities could be sold here at present. However, in order to do business here, an agent should be appointed. The agent's commission is generally 3 or 4 per cent. Several American firms are represented in Bergen by local agents.

Prices may be quoted in dollars and may be f. o. b., but importers prefer to have c. and f. quotations. Freight rates from New York to Bergen can be ascertained from the agent of the Norwegian-America Line, New York. Importers would prefer to pay cash against documents Bergen, but a credit can also be opened in New York.

Value of Imports.

The following table shows the value of the fruit imported into Norway in 1913 and 1914, the latest years for which statistics are available:

Articles.	1913	1914	Articles.	1913	1914
Apples and pears.....	\$176,451	\$289,145	Oranges and orange peel preserved in brine.....	\$16,991	\$16,267
Bananas.....	141,262	153,028	Other fruit salted or pickled in vinegar.....	500	670
Grapes.....	149,008	169,831	Dried oranges and orange peel.....	964	670
Oranges, lemons, etc.....	363,810	397,524	Other dried fruit.....	163,206	122,824
Strawberries, cherries, and pineapples.....	2,358	2,010	Canned fruit.....	9,540	8,442
Other fresh fruit, including berries.....	750	187	Fruit and fruit peel preserved in sugar or spirits, not canned.....	3,859	3,216
Prunes and dates.....	231,552	126,335			
Currants.....	14,686	11,309			
Figs.....	32,583	21,842			
Raisins, etc.....	178,782	138,073			

Nuts, which are classed as fruit in the statistics of the trade of Norway, are omitted from the foregoing statement.

Apples and Pears.

The quantity of apples and pears imported into Norway during 1914 was 3,964,197 pounds, as against 2,903,003 pounds in 1913. The United States is credited with 2,217,960 pounds in 1914 and with 1,398,524 pounds in 1913, Great Britain and Germany ranking next in the order named in both years. Bergen's imports of apples and pears in 1914 amounted to 621,813 pounds, as against 306,706 pounds in 1913.

The Norwegian apple crop was practically a total failure this year. It is estimated that fully two-thirds of the apples imported into Norway are American, the remainder being mostly Canadian and Australian. England serves as a distributing center for a good share of fresh apples and dried and canned fruit, and the import statistics do not credit the United States with these shipments, but since the Norwegian-America Line has been established many importers have been buying direct from the United States. Most of the apples imported are Eastern apples packed in barrels weighing 112 to 132 pounds, but lately large quantities of Western apples, packed in 50-pound boxes, have been received. Importers prefer boxed apples.

The kinds of apples most sold and the f. o. b. New York prices are: Per barrel—Baldwin \$3, Ben Davis \$3, Winesaps \$4.50, Yorks \$3.25; per 50-pound box—Winesaps, Spitzenbergs, and Newtons, \$2.25. To

these prices must be added freight and insurance. The freight is very high—\$0.60 per cubic foot or about \$2.50 per barrel, and \$0.55 per box.

Oranges, Lemons, and Grapes.

In 1914 there were imported into the Kingdom 17,211,089 pounds of oranges, lemons, and other citrus fruit, while in 1913 the imports of these fruits amounted to 16,625,696 pounds. Bergen's share of this trade was 2,830,580 pounds in 1914 and 2,407,579 pounds in 1913. Spain is credited with about one-half of the total, namely, 8,364,932 pounds in 1914 and 7,138,566 pounds in 1913. The greater portion of the remainder in both 1914 and 1913 is credited to Great Britain and Germany, ranking in order named, Italy being also an important source of supply.

The price of Spanish oranges is so low and the difference in freight in favor of Spain is such that it is not believed there is an opening in Norway for American oranges. The following prices have been paid per case for Carcajente oranges, f. o. b. Valencia, cash against documents at Bergen: 420s and 490s, \$2.90; 714s, \$3.28; 1064s, \$4.25. A cheaper grade sells at \$1.76 per case of 420 and \$2.19 per case of 714, f. o. b. Valencia.

In 1914 Norway imported 2,054,554 pounds of grapes, against 1,977,171 pounds in 1913. No information is available as to the proportion furnished by various countries nor as to the quantity imported at Bergen. The f. o. b. prices of Malaga grapes are: Cask of 23 kilos (50 pounds), \$2.80; cask of 20 kilos (44 pounds), \$2.66; cask of 11.5 kilos (25 pounds), \$1.52; cask of 10 kilos (22 pounds), \$1.46; cask of 5 kilos (11 pounds), \$0.95. It is believed that there is no opening in Norway for American grapes on account of the price and freight.

Prunes, Raisins, and Other Dried Fruit—Canned Fruit.

In the statistics of imports of raisins into Norway for both 1914 and 1913 Spain ranks first, Turkey second. In 1914 the imports of raisins totaled 2,184,362 pounds, against 3,063,565 pounds in 1913. Bergen's share in 1914 was 389,071 pounds, and in the preceding year 606,447 pounds. The United States is credited in 1914 with only 4,850 pounds; in 1913, with 34,238 pounds.

The imports of prunes and dates amounted in 1914 to 1,703,798 pounds; in 1913 the quantity imported was 3,968,166 pounds. The imports at Bergen in 1914 were 285,145 pounds; in the preceding year, 813,725 pounds. Over one-half of this class of goods is credited to Germany in both years. The United States shipped 183,645 pounds in 1914 and 810,816 pounds in 1913.

Dried-fruit quotations for 50-pound boxes, c. and f., are, per pound: Apples—prime \$0.095, choice \$0.11; apricots—choice \$0.17, extra \$0.18, fancy \$0.185; peaches—choice \$0.108, fancy \$0.118, extra fancy \$0.125; prunes—60/70s \$0.11, 70/80s \$0.105, 90/100s \$0.095.

The following prices have been paid for raisins f. o. b. Malaga: Seedless, in cases of 28 pounds or barrels of 112 pounds, \$11.19 per hundredweight of 112 pounds; small, \$10.20. For loose Muscatels the c. i. f. Bergen price is 9 to 9.75 crowns per case of 10 kilos (equivalent to \$0.11 to \$0.12 per pound), according to brand.

Owing to the prosperity now prevailing in Norway there is a better market than ever for canned fruit. The following prices per

dozen have been paid for canned fruit f. o. b. San Francisco: Standard apricots, 2½-pound tins, \$1.45; standard pears, 2-pound tins, \$1.80; yellow peaches, 2½-pound tins, \$1.45. The English prices, f. o. b. London, for these goods, are \$3.16, \$2.98, and \$2.98, respectively.

Norwegian Import Duties.

The import duties on fruit in the Norwegian tariff and the numbers of the tariff applicable to the different classes are as follows:

Fresh fruit.—No. 155. Oranges, lemons, etc., \$0.24 per 100 pounds. Tare on the cases, 22 per cent.

No. 156. Grapes, \$0.24 per 100 pounds. Tare on the casks and cases, 33 per cent.

No. 157. Bananas, \$0.24 per 100 pounds. Tare on the cases, 22 per cent.

No. 158. Apples and pears, \$1.46 per 100 pounds.

No. 159. Strawberries, morello cherries, and pineapples, \$2.43 per 100 pounds.

No. 160. Other fresh fruit, including edible berries, \$1.82 per 100 pounds.

Dried fruit.—No. 161. Prunes and dates, \$1.82 per 100 pounds. Tare on casks and cases, 10 per cent.

No. 162. Currants, \$1.82 per 100 pounds. Tare on casks, 12 per cent; on cases, 16 per cent.

No. 163. Figs and fig paste, \$0.60 per 100 pounds. Tare on casks, cases, and drums, 15 per cent; on baskets or mats, 6 per cent.

No. 164. Raisins and dried bananas, \$0.97 per 100 pounds. Tare on casks, 14 per cent; on cases, 20 per cent; on earthenware pots, 30 per cent.

No. 165. Dried oranges and orange peel, \$3.65 per 100 pounds.

Fruit, salted or preserved in vinegar.—No. 170. Oranges and orange peel preserved in salt water, \$4.25 per 100 pounds. Tare on cases, 16 per cent; on earthenware jars, 30 per cent.

No. 172. Other salted and pickled fruit, \$9.11 per 100 pounds. Tare on glass, 30 per cent.

No. 173a. Fruit and fruit peels in sugar, preserved; preserves and fruit preserved in spirits, not otherwise provided for, \$9.11 per 100 pounds.

No. 173b. Fruit preserved otherwise than above stated, including pineapples, plums, and pears in metal boxes, whether preserved in sugar or not, \$4.86 per 100 pounds.

In calculating the duty on 173a and 173b the weight of the bottles, jars, boxes, and similar innermost covering is included in the weight.

[A list of Bergen fruit agents may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82078. Other discussions of the Norwegian fruit market, with special reference to the trade of Stavanger, appeared in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Mar. 19, 1913, and Nov. 20, 1914.]

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE REDUCES COST OF BUOY LENSES.

A great reduction in the cost of 375-millimeter buoy lenses will result from experiments which have been carried on by the United States Bureau of Lighthouses at the general lighthouse depot, Tompkinsville, N. Y. The object of the work has been to make such lenses of pressed glass in place of expensive cut glass, which has been used for the purpose. The third inspector now reports that pressed-glass lenses, which from practical tests both with the naked eye and with the photometer have proven of equal efficiency to the cut-glass lenses, can be made for about \$150 each, a reduction of \$250 from the cost of the cut-glass lenses.

The Lighthouse Service announces that the pressed-glass lenses will be adopted for use in all 375-millimeter lanterns purchased hereafter.

GUATEMALA TRADE IN PRESERVES AND JELLIES.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 14.]

Guatemala spent last year for imported preserved fruits, jellies, jams, vegetables, and meats the sum of \$52,058. Of this amount imports from the United States formed \$43,058. Prior to the European war Germany and England shared this trade with the United States, and for the first six months of the year 1914 Germany alone sent to Guatemala preserved sweets and canned fruits to the value of \$33,000. While imports from the United States have shown a steady increase from year to year—vastly accelerated, of course, since the European war—Guatemalan imports of this class from all countries showed a decline from a total of \$106,038 in 1914 to \$52,058 last year, as stated.

Before the war, however, according to local dealers, California canned fruits, especially peaches, pears, and strawberries, led in the Guatemala market as the best sellers, and this position of leadership is still retained. Germany formerly sent over canned fruits in competition with the American article. The German jellies and jams were pronounced to be of excellent quality, with the added merit of being cheaper than the goods sent here from the United States.

The high customs rate applying to preserves, jams, jellies, and canned fruits restricts the market for these products to a large extent, as the articles on reaching Guatemala become luxuries beyond the reach of all but the wealthier classes. (The Guatemalan import duty is approximately 7 cents United States gold per pound, a rate that in many cases is equal to the original cost of the articles in the country of production.)

Foreign and Domestic Competition.

Indications are that after the war Europe will become a strong competitor of the United States for the trade of Guatemala in this particular line, but that the United States will likely retain for some time to come, if not permanently, the advantage it has gained in this market. Local dealers report that Guatemalans are sticklers for quality, and that in buying conserves and sweetmeats there is a tendency to demand the best, even at an added cost.

A local concern, known as the North Tropics Products Co., has erected a plant for preserving and canning tropical fruits and vegetables. The establishment is modern in construction and equipment and uses electricity for cooking. It is located near Guatemala City and gives employment to over 100 men, women, and children. The company makes a creditable line of these products, and in addition to supplying the local market it has succeeded in building up a growing export business. The United States is the best customer of the Guatemalan concern, but it also sends its products to other countries of Central and South America. Practically every tropical fruit of commercial demand and importance is utilized by the company.

[A list of Guatemalan importers of and dealers in preserved fruits, jams, and jellies may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 82220.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana....	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua.....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	do.	"Islington," Walkersford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby.....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon....	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Woddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

AMERICAN COTTON GINNED.

A preliminary report from the United States Bureau of the Census shows that the number of running bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1916 prior to December 1, 1916, counting round as half bales and excluding linters, was 10,359,346, compared with 9,703,612 bales for the corresponding period of 1915, and 13,073,386 for the period in 1914. The statistics include 177,662 round bales for 1916; 93,361 bales for 1915; 39,682 for 1914. The number of sea-island bales included in 101,620 for 1916, 77,165 for 1915, and 63,024 for 1914. The distribution of sea-island cotton for 1916, by States, is: Florida, 32,452; Georgia, 67,578; and South Carolina, 1,590.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Fire system, No. 3864.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1916, for furnishing and installing a motor-driven centrifugal pump and all piping, fittings, valves, hydrants, and accessories necessary for an extension to the high-pressure fire system at the Naval Proving Ground, Indianhead, Md. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Washington, D. C.

Sand barges, No. 3865.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Memphis, Tenn., until December 21, 1916, for constructing and delivering, complete, three steel sand barges, Nos. 1601 to 1603, inclusive. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Cranes, No. 3866.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 18, 1916, for furnishing two fitting out cranes at the navy yard, Mare Island, Cal. Specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, Cal.

Dredging, No. 3867.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, 401 Customhouse, San Francisco, Cal., until December 27, 1916, for dredging in Oakland Harbor, Cal. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Medical supplies, No. 3868.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until December 22, 1916, for furnishing and delivering hydrargyri chloridum corrosivum tablets, ammoniæ spiritus aromaticus in bottles, and unguentum hydrargyri chloridum mitis in bottles. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Building operations, No. 3869.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1916, for three one-story brick buildings, with heating, plumbing, and electric lighting systems, at the naval hospital reservation, Newport, R. I. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Gasoline, No. 3870.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Charleston, S. C., until December 15, 1916, for furnishing gasoline for the period from January 1 to June 30, 1917. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Steel cell fronts, etc., No. 3871.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., for furnishing and delivering at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., steel cell fronts and mechanical locking device for entire cell block in the east main cell wing. Copies of specifications may be had on application to the Washington office.

Lumber, No. 3872.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Custom House, New Orleans, La., until December 28, 1916, for furnishing and delivering piles, walings, and lumber on the banks or wharves in Southwest Pass, Mississippi River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Bottles, No. 3873.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 546 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until December 18, 1916, for furnishing and delivering clear glass vials. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

X-ray plates, No. 3874.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until December 16, 1916, for furnishing and delivering 600 dozen X-ray plates. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Iron ballast balls, No. 3875.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until January 4, 1917, for iron ballast balls for bell, can, spar, and nun buoys. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Automobiles	23225	Machinery, pumping	23224
Boats, motor	23225	Machines, weighing	23222
Boilers	23222	Motor cycles	23225
Butter, coconut	23228	Motors, benzine	23221
Cocon	23227	Motors, electric	23226
Cranes	23222	Motors, kerosene	23221
Dynamos	23229	Motors, steam	23222
Foodstuffs	23226	Pipes, iron	23230
Gas engines	23222	Tacks	23223
Generators	23222	Taps	23230
Hooks, iron	23223	Tubes	23230
Lamps, electric	23229	Valves	23230
Locomotives	23222	Wires, electric	23229
Machinery, agricultural	23221, 23222		

23221.†—A firm in Russia, with an office in the United States, wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of agricultural machinery of all kinds, and kerosene and benzine driven motors of 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 horsepower. Reference.

23222.*—A man in Spain is desirous of securing an agency for the sale of locomotives, steam motors, boilers, weighing machines, agricultural machinery, generators, gasolines, cranes, etc. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made against shipping documents. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

23223.†—A man in Greece is in the market for tacks and iron hooks. Samples of articles desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Misc. Exhibit No. 170.)

23224.*—The Sydney office of the British Trade Commissioner in Australia reports that tenders will be received by the New South Wales Department of Public Works until January 8, 1917, for the supply and erection of pumping machinery in two units, driven by suction gas or by steam. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has no further information in regard to this opportunity.

23225.‡—A man in Colombia would like to receive catalogues of automobiles, motorcycles, and motor boats.

23226.†—A commission merchant in Porto Rico is desirous of being placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of foodstuffs. References.

23227.*—A chocolate-manufacturing firm in Switzerland is in the market for raw cocoa. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.

23228.‡—An importing firm in Canada desires to communicate with American manufacturers of coconut butter.

23229.*—A man in Spain would like to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of dynamos, electric motors, electric lamps, electric wires, and all kinds of electrical materials. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made against shipping documents. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

23230.*—The water supply department of a city in Russia desires to purchase cast-iron and steel supplies for the municipal waterworks, such as pipes, tubes, taps, valves, etc. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Vladivostok, preferably in Russian currency. Correspondence may be in English.

Vice Consul George P. Waller, jr., of Athens, reports the sale of \$70,500 worth of American brewer's supplies (malt, lupulin, barley, etc.), \$6,000 worth of coffee, and various other items that bring the total up to \$125,000, as the September quarter's results of consular trade-extension work in that section of Greece.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 290 Washington, D. C., Monday, December 11 1916

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IMPORT PROHIBITION ON TIN PLATE IN AUSTRALIA.

According to a cablegram from Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy, Melbourne, dated December 8, the Australian Government has prohibited the importation of tin plate from the United States. The prohibition does not apply to shipments actually en route.

[During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, the quantity of tin plate imported into Australia from the United States was 3,870,199 pounds, representing about 50 per cent of the total imports.]

DECISION AFFECTING BRITISH EMBARGO ON SILK FABRIC.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Dec. 8.]

The War Trade Department decides that tissues being manufactures of silk with other yarns may be regarded as outside the prohibition affecting export to all non-British destinations of "all tissues and fabrics of silk of all kinds (including artificial silk) whether pure or mixed with other yarns or materials in the gray or discharged, undyed, dyed or printed, unweighted or weighted." Provided the exporter declares that the goods contain less than 10 per cent of silk, including artificial silk, such mixed tissues may be exported to all destinations other than nonallied European countries.

[The embargo decree prohibiting the exportation of silk fabrics to non-British destinations was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 28.]

NEED OF MANUFACTURED GOODS IN WESTERN SIBERIA.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 23.]

The British vice consul at Omsk, Asiatic Russia, writes that prices of manufactured goods in that district are very high at present. The demand is good, stocks being very low, and foreign goods could be sold for cash and at a profit in spite of the heavy duties and transport and exchange difficulties. The supply of even small quantities of foreign goods might have a great effect on trade after the war, because dealers in Siberia would know the class of goods that could be furnished under normal conditions. Firms wishing to obtain a share in Russian after-the-war business are recommended to start now.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**CHINA.**

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Oct. 31.]

Unusual Building Construction Activities at Shanghai.

The value of buildings under construction in the International Settlement at Shanghai for the first half of 1916 was approximately \$2,400,000. This is a remarkable showing when compared with the returns for all of 1915, which aggregated about \$3,100,000. These figures represent only the International Settlement. Extensive building operations are also being carried on in the French Concession, the Chinese native city, and in the suburbs.

The large amount of building work at present carried on in Shanghai may be accounted for in part by the urgent need of the structures now being erected. The cost of building is in general 20 per cent higher than ordinarily, and the belief is that these higher figures will not be reduced to the normal for many months to come. The loss in the extra cost of building, however, will in most cases be offset by bigger profits resulting from larger rentals and increased business.

Character of Buildings Under Construction.

The buildings under construction in the International Settlement in Shanghai may be classified thus: Native residences and shops, semiforeign shops, semiforeign residences, foreign residences, offices, and shops.

The largest number of building operations comes under native residences and shops. The usual native residence measures 12 feet in width by 22 to 24 feet in depth. They are built with a 4-foot space between the main house and an 8-foot back lean-to serving as a kitchen, over which is a sun deck, the main house only having an upper floor. There is also an 8-foot walled front yard. The shop differs from the residence only by the elimination of the front yard, the front of the main house being on the road line.

Semiforeign shops are native shops with a foreign front, and these are becoming general on the principal streets.

Semiforeign residences are of the same size as the native residences, having a somewhat better finish and a foreign front in the shape of a veranda and are supplied with foreign doors and windows. They are generally occupied by Japanese and the foreign poor.

The foreign residences, offices, and shops constitute the bulk of the expensive buildings and are generally substantial and well constructed.

Materials Used in Building Native Houses.

The native houses are all frame. The uprights are usually native round fir poles, 6 to 8 inches in diameter at the base. Division walls between houses are of 3-inch brick. Joists carrying the floor and roof are round fir poles. The flooring is pine, lap-jointed or tongued-and-grooved. Doors are of pine, made up of thin boards nailed to a frame. Windows are glazed with fourth-quality glass. The stiles of doors and windows, let into the framework at the top and bottom, form hinge bars upon which they move. No hardware is used. Iron-work entering into the construction consists only of rain pipes from the roof and nails for the flooring.

The roofs are invariably covered with native tiles of a slate color. This color is not due to the material used, but is the result of the tempering received in the kiln. Before the tiles are brought to such a degree of heat in the kiln as would leave them red afterwards, the fire is extinguished and water is poured from the top and is gradually absorbed, in the form of steam, by the half-burned tiles. It is a cheaper process than that used to produce the ordinary brick red.

Oregon pine was formerly gradually supplanting cheaper timbers, such as native and Japanese pine, both in framing and flooring, but it has had a setback since the outbreak of the war, due to the increase in freight rates, as a result of which it can not compete with the cheaper timbers.

Semi-Foreign Houses—Foreign Residences, Offices, Shops, and Godowns.

In the semiforeign houses a low grade of hardware is used, consisting of cheap lock sets, galvanized and black iron fastening hooks, iron barrel and espagnolette bolts for windows, etc., and cast-iron grate fronts.

The walls of the foreign residences, offices, shops, and godowns are generally of solid brick, although fronts are sometimes constructed of granite, stone, or artificial stone. Constructional timber is invariably Oregon pine, floors in some cases being Oregon pine, but usually Singapore red wood. This wood, which resembles the Lauan (Philippine) family, makes a good floor and shows up well when coated with native varnish, known as "Ningpo varnish." Singapore red wood is also extensively used for cabinetwork.

Ningpo varnish is composed of a mixture of raw varnish (lacquer) and wood oil generally from Szechuen, the proportion varying, usually being 25 per cent raw varnish and 75 per cent wood oil. A larger proportion of raw varnish increases both cost and durability.

Lath and plaster partitions and ceilings are made up with Oregon laths.

A good quality of lock sets are used, usually of British manufacture. Locks are deeply mortised so that the handle is 4 or 5 inches away from the edge of the door. Hooks and window and shutter fasteners are of brass. Sanitary fixtures are of good quality. There is no demand for stock doors and sashes, the architect or designer varying his sizes to suit the size of room, depth of floor, exterior appearance of building, etc.

Roofs are generally covered with corrugated, galvanized iron. Marseille red clay and local cement tiles are also used.

Native varnish is almost universally used on woodwork, and foreign paint on iron; water paint, distempers, or kalsomine serve to decorate almost all interiors.

Extensive Use of Cement—Window Glass.

The use of reinforced concrete has grown rapidly and it is now being extensively employed in office, shop, and factory blocks. Expanded metal, wire mesh, and reinforcement bars of every description are in great demand, although at high price. The demand will, in all probability, greatly increase.

Cement is being consumed in increasing quantities, the supply being met from mills in or near China.

Before the war Belgium was practically the only source of supply for window glass. Now it is obtained from Japan and America;

but American manufacturers must furnish a cheaper quality to retain the business against competition, the fourth quality now being supplied from America being about 50 per cent thicker than the fourth Belgian quality that prevailed before the war.

CANADA.

New Pulp Mill in New Brunswick.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nov. 27.]

A new pulp mill is about to be erected at Millerton, on the Miramichi River, to be operated under the sulphate process (chemical) and will at first have a daily capacity of about 20 tons. The pulp mill at this point was destroyed by fire some months ago. Montreal capitalists are financing the undertaking. It is expected that the mill will be ready for production about next March.

Although shipment by water from Millerton is hardly practicable, it was decided to build the mill there rather than farther down stream, because the water necessary for washing the pulp is less affected by the tide, contains less salt and other deleterious ingredients, which might affect the quality of the pulp. There is also a fair supply of spring water conveniently near the chosen site. The Intercolonial division of the Canadian Government Railways will provide the requisite transportation facilities.

The mill which was destroyed by fire was a much more extensive plant than the one now in contemplation. It converted its product into paper of the class known to the trade as "kraft," some of which was exported to the United States.

[The name and address of the probable manager of the plant can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82425.]

NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Nov. 13.]

Erection of Hotel.

Provisional plans have been made for a new hotel which will accommodate 50 per cent more guests than any hotel now in Amsterdam. The hotel will stand on a corner and extend 70 meters (230 feet) along one street and 75 meters (246 feet) along the other, and will cover altogether 3,000 square meters of ground. It will be five or more stories high and have 200 bedrooms and 200 bathrooms, and 50 or more private sitting rooms connecting with bedrooms, altogether giving accommodations for over 300 guests.

The capital stock is 3,000,000 florins (\$1,206,000).

A report from this consulate, dated October 13, 1915 [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 10, 1915], gave the details of a project for a new hotel on the Dam, the open space in front of the royal palace. This project, after ground was broken, has apparently failed for lack of sufficient support. It is believed, however, that the present project can not fail, because it was instituted by great financial, shipping, and railway interests. The preliminary arrangements are under the direction of representatives of two large Amsterdam financial institutions, of two Amsterdam steamship companies, and of the Holland and State railway companies.

It is doubtful if actual building will begin before the end of the war, because of the present difficulty of obtaining and the high cost of the necessary materials.

TESTED SALES CONTRACT FOR CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Nov. 11.]

Repeated instances of American losses through failure to secure properly worded sales contracts emphasize the importance of a form of contract practically tested by local legal requirements, including those conditions that bear on the present foreign trade with these islands. This is an agent's market far more than a jobber's, and in many cases the best agents for introducing American goods are to be found only among the more recently established firms. In such cases signed orders or sales contracts should be required from the actual purchasers and indorsed by the agent, following the form given below:

MODEL SALES CONTRACT.

No. -----

Name of agent or of firm when direct buyer -----

Order given by ----- (name of buyer). •

To ----- (name of American exporter).

Through agency of ----- (name of agent, when not direct sale).

Method of payment -----

Date of shipment (usually now reading "soonest possible").

Order list, composing actual body of order. (This should be exact. Indefinite orders have been proved in the local courts to be no orders at all.)

Conditions of contract: "All prices are subject to the market fluctuations. This order can not be held up or canceled after it has been sent. Orders by cable are subject to the usual interpretation of commercial terms. Cable orders should be distinctly so marked on the sales contract. Weights and measures are understood to be the shipping weights and measures. When merchandise is sold c. i. f., it is understood to be at the actual price of the freight and insurance of the day, and any increase would be on the buyer's account. Any delay in shipping is on the buyer's responsibility. If shipment can not be effected for some unforeseen reason, this order is understood to be canceled."

This form, which was drawn by the leader of the local bar for a British firm, has been tested for several years. While it may appear to be unusually favorable to the seller, no first-class firm in this district would ordinarily refuse to sign it, and the bulk of the trade is being done under such sales contracts by conservative British firms.

SAUDADE FIBER OFFERED FOR EXPORT IN BRAZIL.

A sample of the fiber of a plant known as "saudade" has been forwarded from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by Consul General Gottschalk, with the statement that it is said to grow in abundance in the vicinity of Maranhão, and that it is probable that it could be furnished in exportable quantities.

At the United States Bureau of Plant Industry in the Department of Agriculture it is stated that this fiber is evidently from a plant of the milkweed family and is very similar to akund, which is produced in India from *Calotropis procera*, known there by the name "madar." This fiber is not quoted in the fiber markets of the United States, but it is quoted in the London fiber markets in the same group with kapok. A recent quotation gives the price of akund at 3½d. to 4d. (\$0.07 to \$0.08), with kapok at 10d. to 13d. per pound.

The bureau states that a market for this fiber could be obtained with upholsterers and mattress makers.

[The fiber mentioned may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. The name of the person who supplied the sample to Consul General Gottschalk may be obtained from these offices or from the cooperative offices of the Bureau. Refer to file No. 81869.]

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES CENSUS.

"The Story of the Census, 1790 to 1916," an illustrated publication of 38 pages, has been issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. A history of this branch of the Government gives in concise form the progress made from the First Census to the Thirteenth Census, and the publication also contains statements concerning the details of the establishment of the permanent Census Bureau, mechanical tabulation, the cost of the work, the value of such statistics, and the Constitutional provision for the census.

The United States was the first among the nations to make Constitutional or legal provision for a regular periodical enumeration of its inhabitants, and the present Census Bureau is the greatest statistical office in the world, representing the outgrowth and development of a century and a quarter of periodical and in recent years continuous statistical inquiry on the part of the Federal Government. The First Census, taken in 1790, related solely to population, but the field now embraces detailed inquiries along 17 distinct lines, made at decennial, quinquennial, biennial, annual, quarterly, and monthly intervals, in addition to various special inquiries ordered by the President or by Congress. Among the new features introduced from time to time were the following:

Third Census, 1810, first collection of industrial statistics.

Fourth Census, 1820, first statistics of occupations.

Fifth Census, 1830, first statistics of the deaf and blind.

Sixth Census, 1840, first statistics of illiteracy, the insane and idiotic, mining and agriculture.

Seventh Census, 1850, first mortality and social statistics.

Ninth Census, 1870, introduction of machine tabulation.

Tenth Census, 1880, change in method of enumeration by employing large body of enumerators under the direction of supervisors holding office only until the work is completed.

Eleventh Census, 1890, introduction of electric tabulation.

Thirteenth Census, 1910, first to be taken by the permanent Census Bureau, and differed from its predecessors in the manner in which the information obtained was compiled and presented to the public and in the method by which temporary clerks were appointed. Positions on the temporary clerical force were filled through open competitive civil-service examinations held throughout the country by the United States Civil Service Commission.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S TERRITORIAL REVENUE.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Dec. 1.]

According to returns published to-day New Brunswick's territorial revenue for the year ending October 31, 1916, amounted to \$540,386. For the corresponding period a year ago the total was \$591,905, but that was an extraordinary sum and had never before been approached. The 1916 return is considered remarkably satisfactory in view of the fact that "stumpage" collections were \$70,000 less than in the preceding 12 months, which is explained as being due to a smaller lumber cut than usual in the woods along the north shore. (By "stumpage" is meant the revenue accruing from felled trees at a fixed sum per tree, as prescribed by statute.)

The "stumpage" shortage was offset in a measure by an increase of approximately \$5,000 in game licenses, of \$3,000 in royalties, and of \$2,500 in timber licenses. There was also a gain in mining licenses issued of nearly \$8,000 and an increase of 125 per cent in the amount of fines collected for violation of game and fire laws.

WINE PRODUCTION IN GENEVA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Switzerland, Nov. 14.]

The 1916 production of white and red wine will be decidedly below the normal amount in the Geneva district. The quality is also inferior to that of recent years, owing to insufficient sunshine.

Wine is a product of the three cantons of Geneva, Vaud, and Valais, composing this district. *This district produces nearly two-thirds of the wine made in Switzerland. Out of a total area of 53,000 acres under grapes in the whole of Switzerland, this district has vineyards aggregating 25,000 acres. In 1914 (the latest year shown in published official returns) the wine production for this district was 6,569,100 gallons out of a total for Switzerland of 9,723,700 gallons.

The production for the current year for the Geneva district will be about 25 per cent below normal. The prices, however, are relatively very much augmented—25 to 30 per cent above normal—owing both to the shortage of the crop and to the difficulty of importing wines. The wine produced in this district is for the most part for domestic consumption.

In connection with the general temperate consumption of light wines in this district, it may be interesting to add that this district does not consume its quota of beer, compared with the whole of Switzerland. Out of a production in 1915 of 53,000,000 gallons of beer for Switzerland, the Geneva district consumed 2,500,000 gallons.

NORMAL POTATO CROP EXPECTED IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Dec. 2.]

There are two potato crops gathered in Bermuda during the year, one in December and January and the other in April and May. The seed for the crop, the first of which is now being gathered, is of the Bliss Triumph variety, and was imported from Long Island. Some of the seed that was planted earliest was of Bermuda production, and the quality and quantity of the crop from this seed is not quite up to normal, in either quantity or quality, the crop having suffered from dry weather in October and wet weather in the early part of November. About 8,000 barrels of Bliss Triumphs were imported for seed, being an increase of about 2,000 barrels over the amount imported in 1915, but it is stated that 15 to 20 per cent of this importation went bad after arrival in Bermuda. A liberal estimate of the production of potatoes in Bermuda is 5 bushels to 1 bushel of seed.

The Director of Agriculture has just announced that a normal crop of good quality may be expected, providing weather conditions are favorable during December. The acreage under crop is about the same as usual. It is impossible to give the actual acreage on account of the irregular shapes and sizes of the fields.

The first shipment of potatoes during the season went forward by the steamship *Bermudian*, which sailed November 25. It consisted of 371 barrels, valued at \$1,781.

A Spanish importer recently purchased 1,100 pounds of American tin foil from a manufacturer whose address he obtained from Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, of Barcelona.

A YEAR'S RESULTS IN BUILDING AMERICAN COMMERCE.

The development of American foreign trade during the second year of the war is the principal theme of the annual report made public to-day by Dr. Edward Ewing Pratt, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Particular attention is called to the changes in the character of our foreign trade during the last fiscal year. "Contrary to the general impression," says Dr. Pratt, "the United States played a significant rôle in international trade previous to the war, but it should be observed that raw materials, foodstuffs, and unfinished products formed together by far the most important part of our exports, and that manufactured goods formed a very considerable part of our imports.

"The situation during the last fiscal year, however, has shown a genuinely striking change. Our foreign trade (and especially our exports) increased at a tremendous rate. During the last fiscal year the United States has had a foreign trade greater than that of any other country during any year. Another notable fact is that there has been a marked shifting in the character of our foreign trade. Most important of all, perhaps, is the great increase in our exportations of manufactured goods and the decrease in our imports of such goods."

Five tables of statistics are presented to show exactly the nature of the changes that have taken place, and for this purpose are probably the most comprehensive figures that have so far appeared in print.

Importance of Foreign Trade Illustrated.

"Large as have been the increases in our foreign trade, and particularly in our exports," says Dr. Pratt, "the significance of these increases is not always appreciated by the general public. What an increased foreign trade means to the manufacturer, to the farmer, to the railroad, to the merchant, and to shipping is often underestimated or entirely unappreciated." The importance of foreign trade is illustrated by the effect of changed trade conditions during the early months of the war in the wheat-growing and cotton-growing States. The increased demand in Europe for American wheat ushered in a remarkable period of prosperity in such States as Minnesota and the Dakotas, while the decreased demand for cotton had just the opposite effect in the Southern States where cotton is the staple crop. These two experiences, so different in character, have opened the eyes of those who did not appreciate the value of foreign markets. The report continues:

To the manufacturer, however, foreign trade means something more than an increased demand for his products. Very few factories are producing at anything like full capacity. The average factory is probably producing at not more than 75 per cent of its capacity. If the manufacturer could find a steady and reliable outlet for the additional 25 per cent, he would be able not only to increase his profits greatly but to reduce considerably his overhead.

Emphasis should also be laid on the fact that foreign trade considerably increases the general stability of business conditions in a country. A widely distributed foreign trade means greater average stability. In most countries of the world prosperity or depression (in fact, business conditions in general) depend to a considerable extent upon agriculture and the state of the market for agricultural products. We have recently observed how one part of the United States suffered a severe depression and another section enjoyed great prosperity because of changed market conditions. The same is true of practically every line of manufacturing. To take a simple example: Suppose that a manufacturer of agricultural machinery marketed his goods only in the

United States; if there were a single bad year, when crops were not good and market conditions were not favorable, he would probably find his outlet for agricultural machinery considerably curtailed. If, on the other hand, that manufacturer sold his machinery not only in the United States but in Canada, in South America, in South Africa, in Australia, in India, and in Russia, it is quite unlikely that there would be bad harvests, bad crops, or bad market conditions in every country of the world, and perhaps while the United States was experiencing a depression, Argentina or Russia would be enjoying prosperity, and the machinery that could not be sold in the United States would be marketed in other countries. The greater the number of markets that the manufacturer is supplying the steadier is the demand for his products likely to be.

American Preparations for Peace Conditions.

The report urges strongly the necessity of building up at this time as much trade as possible outside of the war zone. The business of supplying munitions is a temporary one, whereas business outside of the war zone can be made permanent to a large extent if proper precautions are taken. The importance of munitions and secondary war supplies in our recent export trade is discussed at length in the report, and interesting tables are presented to prove the point that the volume of this temporary business has been greatly exaggerated. The ability of the belligerent countries to return to normal pursuits and take up their trade where they left off is also considered, as well as our own ability to meet whatever competition may come into being after peace is made. The preparations for peace already made in this country and the preparations that remain to be made are outlined, special emphasis being placed on the importance of the Federal Reserve Act and of the newly authorized Tariff Commission.

Regarding the work of his own Bureau, Dr. Pratt says:

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has as its primary function the promotion of foreign trade. I desire very much indeed to see more attention given to domestic commerce, and I propose to urge Congress this year to make such appropriations as will enable this Bureau to do effective work in developing our domestic trade and rendering it more efficient and economical.

During the past year it has been the constant aim and ambition of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce to make its service more practical. We have tried to get away from the doctrinaire and the theoretical and have endeavored to make each project and each act definite, concrete, and of practical assistance to the business community.

TOURIST TRAFFIC PROSPECTS IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Dec. 2.]

In anticipation of the tourist season the two largest hotels in Bermuda will open, The Princess on December 11, 1916, and The Hamilton on January 1, 1917. The former accommodates about 400 guests and the latter about 600. The colony through its trade-development board has entered into a contract with the Quebec Steamship Co., under which the colony agrees to pay \$50,000 in consideration of a weekly service by the steamship *Bermudian*, and a nine-day service by a vessel which has recently been secured for the Bermuda-New York service. Each of the vessels will accommodate about 300 passengers. The contract period is January to April, inclusive, but shipping accommodation is to be provided to carry away crops in May, if necessary.

The number of first-class passengers arriving in Bermuda in 1915 was 10,511, and it is anticipated that this number will be exceeded in 1917.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

NOVEMBER.

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	32,999	21,281	984	.....	33,983	21,281
Grain.....bushels..	12,331,768	8,320,376	8,008,592	6,920,445	20,338,360	15,240,821
Flour.....barrels..	947,250	1,162,791	444,610	430,580	1,391,860	1,593,371
Iron ore.....short tons..	3,704,125	5,218,677	790,842	676,168	4,494,967	5,894,845
Lumber.....M feet..	39,538	33,838	4,905	52	35,443	35,990
Wheat.....bushels..	57,131,610	19,138,892	17,257,077	9,381,400	74,388,687	28,520,292
General merchandise.....short tons..	32,864	37,546	8,052	1,152	40,916	38,696
Passengers.....number..	21	27	119	337	140	364
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	214,208	181,170	19,500	6,900	233,708	188,070
Soft.....do.....	1,307,758	957,044	35,490	64,016	1,343,248	1,021,060
Flour.....barrels..	.....	60	.....	.....	60	60
Grain.....bushels..	.....	2,550	.....	.....	2,550	2,550
Manufactured iron.....short tons..	16,415	21,830	2,782	4,722	19,197	26,552
Salt.....barrels..	62,914	12,710	5,096	8,400	68,010	21,110
General merchandise.....short tons..	93,154	104,568	60,892	44,845	144,046	149,413
Passengers.....number..	7	6	57	56	64	62
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	5,895,580	6,225,714	1,522,487	1,137,370	7,418,067	7,363,084
Westbound.....do.....	1,640,972	1,266,568	109,392	121,653	1,750,334	1,388,251
Total.....	7,536,552	7,492,282	1,631,879	1,259,023	9,168,431	8,751,335
Vessel passages.....number..	1,880	1,920	576	637	2,456	2,547
Registered tonnage.....net..	5,721,516	5,934,765	1,344,470	990,145	7,065,986	6,924,910

EIGHT MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	132,812	118,914	18,822	3,582	151,634	122,796
Grain.....bushels..	33,356,599	41,841,611	22,176,964	41,578,648	55,533,563	83,430,259
Flour.....barrels..	5,469,699	6,568,459	2,596,228	3,237,061	8,065,927	9,796,520
Iron ore.....short tons..	3,704,125	5,218,677	790,842	676,168	4,494,967	5,894,845
Pig iron.....do.....	8,870	35,032	6,770	.....	15,640	35,632
Lumber.....M feet..	407,925	327,428	43,870	12,135	451,795	339,563
Wheat.....bushels..	150,931,702	121,393,021	55,383,067	82,307,988	206,314,709	203,701,009
General merchandise.....short tons..	191,425	265,579	117,328	54,112	308,753	319,691
Passengers.....number..	12,834	12,062	13,053	15,947	25,887	28,009
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	1,884,497	1,969,191	58,133	87,710	1,942,630	2,078,901
Soft.....do.....	10,689,046	12,617,528	403,548	891,427	11,092,594	13,508,955
Flour.....barrels..	100	421	.....	12,960	100	13,381
Grain.....bushels..	31,250	.....	373	.....	31,623	.....
Manufactured iron.....short tons..	157,042	140,115	20,670	20,163	177,212	160,278
Iron ore.....do.....	1,500	14,479	.....	14,448	1,500	28,927
Salt.....barrels..	639,690	650,040	31,906	54,187	671,596	704,227
General merchandise.....short tons..	488,798	949,243	288,381	832,430	1,237,179	1,281,671
Passengers.....number..	12,541	11,241	11,854	15,529	24,395	26,770
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	47,939,557	56,999,001	6,617,684	14,963,371	54,557,241	71,962,372
Westbound.....do.....	13,777,318	15,808,257	775,296	1,355,215	14,552,644	17,163,472
Total.....	61,716,905	72,807,258	7,392,980	16,318,586	69,109,885	89,125,844
Vessel passages.....number..	16,440	18,181	4,154	6,464	20,594	24,645
Registered tonnage.....net..	46,730,753	55,566,125	8,197,491	12,455,999	54,928,244	68,022,114

THE GREEK CURRANT MARKET.

[Consul A. B Cooke, Patras, Nov. 4.]

Since the report made by the Patras consulate on the Greek currant crop of 1916-17, under date of September 14 [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 17, 1916], quotations of fruit on the local market have continued to advance steadily until now they have reached a mark never approached since the disastrous year of 1900. The following tabulation will show the prices of the various grades known to the American trade as they were quoted locally on September 14 and on November 4, 1916. The prices are per hundredweight of 112 pounds and represent the net cost of the fruit to foreign buyers, freight, insurance, packing charges, and the like not being included in the figures given:

Grade.	Septem-ber.	Novem-ber.	Grade.	Septem-ber.	Novem-ber.
Provincials.....	\$9.73	\$12.98	Gulf.....	\$10.46	\$14.07
Amallas.....	9.98	13.18	Gulf, fine.....	10.58	14.15
Amallas, fine.....	9.98	13.26	Gulf, choice.....	10.71	14.40
Amallas, choice.....	10.22	13.50	Gulf, choicest.....	10.83	14.58
Amallas, choicest.....	10.34	13.58	Vostizza.....	11.31	15.39
Patras.....	10.46	13.89	Vostizza, fine.....	11.50	15.45
Patras, fine.....	10.46	13.91	Vostizza, choice.....	11.50	15.51
Patras, choice.....	10.58	14.15	Vostizza, choicest.....	11.98	15.82
Patras, choicest.....	10.71	14.36	Vostizza, shade.....	12.41	16.30

The November figures given above represent an average advance of 33 per cent, as compared with the prices for September 14.

Purchases by the American Market.

It was hardly to be expected that American merchants would buy as heavily as in former years in the face of such prices. As a matter of fact, exports of currants from the Patras district to the American market for the period from August 23 to October 31, 1916, as shown by invoices certified in this office, were only 2,187 long tons, as compared with 5,078 tons for the corresponding period of 1915. To the first figure may be added 800 to 1,000 tons of fruit already sold to American buyers and awaiting shipment on the steamer *Frixos*, expected at this port for New York in three days.

Reputable currant merchants state that of the 50,000 tons of fruit now available perhaps 20,000 tons are of inferior quality. It appears that many growers, attracted by the high prices offered at the opening of the season, gathered their fruit from the drying grounds before it was thoroughly dried in order to get it to market quickly. Perhaps, too, the ravages of peronospora had harmful effect on the fruit. At any rate, buyers report a large quantity of fruit with high percentage of moisture, and already tending to ferment.

American buyers might do well, when placing orders in future, to take such steps as will insure them the delivery of the actual grade of fruit specified in the order. It would appear, from complaints reaching this consulate in past seasons, that buyers have not always been satisfied with the fruit they received.

CHILEAN MINING SCHOOL TO HAVE EXCELLENT FIELD.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Oct. 31.]

The project for the establishment of a school of mining at Antofagasta, which already has passed one house of the Chilean Congress, has revived interest in the mineral resources of the Province of Antofagasta. Information regarding the locations of various deposits in this Province was given in an article in the *Mercurio* of Antofagasta, published October 29, 1916.

Native alum is common in the pampas, where there are deposits of salts which have hydrated sulphates of soda, lime, alumina, and magnesia, accompanied also by common salt.

Some veins of sulphide of antimony are found in the neighborhood of Calama. They have not so far been explored.

Rich Sulphur and Borax Deposits.

Abundant and rich deposits of sulphur are found in the numerous volcanoes which exist in the cordillera along the eastern edge of the Province. Some of these deposits are now worked. Occasionally deposits of sulphur are found in the nitrate region and among those of gypsum, as near Boquete.

The very rich deposits of borax at Ascotan and Carcote are well known, and smaller quantities exist at Pampa Joya and Carvajal. Many of the deposits are controlled and operated by an English company affiliated in ownership with the same interests that operate borax properties in the United States.

Carbonate of lime is found in many parts of the Province in various forms. There is marble near Calama.

Carbonate of soda is found in the form of caps, layers, floury masses, and efflorescences on the surface of the pampas, principally in the higher salt deposits.

Chloride of sodium is very abundant in many places, common salt almost chemically pure being found in some of the deposits.

Cobalt exists in veins near Caracoles. It is generally of low grade though further development may find ore rich enough to ship.

Numerous Sources of Copper in Province.

One of the largest known deposits of low-grade copper is in this Province, at Chuquicamata, now being worked by the Chile Exploration Co. Other notable deposits, some of high-grade ore, are at Caspana, Cerro Gordo, Conchi, Chacaya, Chug-Chug, Desesperado, El Cobre, Huacazul, Huantajayita, Lagarto, Lomas Bayas, Mantos Blancos, Moctezuma, Naguayán, Nuevo Tamayo, Ojo de Gallo, Paco-Paco, San Bartolo, San José del Abra, Sierra Gorda, Sierra Valenzuela, Sierra Miranda, Sierra Rencoret, San Lorenzo, Viscachilla, and Tuina. Besides the smelter at Chuquicamata, others operate at Calama and Gatico, while one is expected to start operations soon at Antofagasta on a small scale.

Iron is found in various combinations and in veins of varying character. It is not exploited at present in this Province.

Manganese ore is found in large veins in the pampas, of high percentage and free from phosphorus.

In the form of cinnabar or sulphide, mercury has been found a little south of the nitrate deposits of Aguas Blancas. It is exploited on a small scale also not far from Taltal.

In the form of balls in a clayey covering, and composed of an arsenate and a silicate, nickel exists in considerable quantities near San Pedro de Atacama. Until recently this place has been difficult of access, but an advertisement which is now appearing calls for bids for improving the road between San Pedro de Atacama and Sierra Gorda, the latter a station on the Antofagasta & Bolivia Railroad, so that a passenger and freight service by automobile may be installed to San Pedro.

Marketing of Nitrate of Soda Important.

The marketing of nitrate of soda continues to be one of the leading interests of this Province, and the unworked deposits are still of large extent.

Gold has been mined on a scale of considerable magnitude in the past and has been found in many places, notably in San Cristobal and Guanaco. The veins are still worked on a small scale.

The same indications that have led to petroleum production in other parts of the world are found in this Province, such as the existence of bituminous shales, iridescent films on water, odors, and inflammable gases, etc. These occur in several places near the eastern border of the Province. No drilling or serious development has taken place.

In addition to the famous silver mines near Caracoles, which have given in 20 years of working a product valued at 400,000,000 pesos (the value of the Chilean peso in this period has fluctuated between \$0.15 and \$0.25 United States currency), other deposits of smaller value are known to have been worked in the past.

Lead occurs in veins above 50 per cent pure accompanying the silver ores in several places in the Province.

Potassium One of Products at Nitrate Plants.

In the forms of chloride of potassium and the sulphate potassium is found in several places among the material from which nitrate of soda is extracted. At a few of the nitrate plants efforts are made to retain the potassium salts; at others their presence has been neglected or ignored.

Blue vitrol, or sulphate of copper, is found in appreciable quantities at some of the copper mines, as at Chuquicamata, Sierra Gorda, and Quetena.

Sulphate of iron is found in layers and overflows at Gaucate, Cerritos Bayos, and Quetena.

Sulphate of lime, or gypsum, covers the desert plains over large areas. It is in caps or benches that would permit easy working.

Sulphate of soda is found in abundance and in a very pure state in many places in the nitrate pampas and in the salt deposits of the high altitudes. It is also extracted sometimes from waste waters at nitrate plants. Shipments are occasionally made from Antofagasta to Valparaiso.

Tripoli exists in the Province in several places. Iodine is extracted from waste liquors in the manufacture of nitrate of soda. Large quantities are shipped, but the sale of the Chilean product is controlled by a combination of all the producers.

Sulphide of zinc is found in some of the mines of the Sierra Gorda, associated with lead-silver ores.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3876.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving the schedule numbers for the supply of the following: Schedule 483, dental chairs; schedule 486, nitric acid, ethyl alcohol, torpedo bronze, sheet copper, and mercury; schedule 487, primer cases and pressed steel cases and fittings; schedule 488, beech, birch, and maple, and yellow locust; schedule 489, bolts and nuts, combination locks, staples, and turpentine; schedule 490, indicator systems, etc.; schedule 491, composition gate valves, and safety and relief valves; schedule 492, 24-inch bench drill, double emery grinder, and screw-cutting engine lathe; schedule 493, upright press drill, double emery grinder, screw-cutting engine lathe, and column shaper; schedule 494, die sinking machine; schedule 495, rubber boots and green coffee; schedule 496, metal lockers; schedule 497, magnesia blocks, asbestos plaster cement, magnesia plaster cement, magnesia pipe covering, asbestos fiber felting, asbestos millboard, asbestos wick or rope packing, asbestos paper, and asbestos plaster; schedule 498, plumbing supplies; schedule 499, alloy steel forgings, globe valves, and platinum iridium wire; schedule 500, steel dental cabinets; schedule 501, electric overhead crane; schedule 502, engine room clocks, etc., and hobbing machine; and schedule 503, altering and repairing buildings.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3877.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 15, 1916, for furnishing by steamer, free of all charges, on dock, at Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, centrifugal pumps and equipment, watchmaker's bench, steel shelving, steel pinions, pipe fittings, screws, rivets, bolts, toe calks, wagon springs, wagon wheels and parts, paintbrushes, file brushes, scrub brushes, hose, packing, gaskets, rubber valves, rubber matting, rubber tires, canvas, cheesecloth, bunting, burlap, sheeting, leather belting, belt lacing, marline, sash cord, emery cloth, sandpaper, chamols skins, harness, rubber boots, putty knives, window glass, boiler lagging, pipe covering, potassium, chlorate, lye, beeswax, chalk, crayons, thread, rubber bands, pens, pencils, pencil protectors, transit books, scratch pads, and paper. (Circular 1104.)

Stationery supplies, etc., No. 3878.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until December 21, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at the Field Medical Supply Depot, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., penholders, ink wells, rubber bands, and cylindrical tin cans. Specifications may be had on application to the Field Medical Supply Depot, Washington, D. C.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3879.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 20, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, steel reinforcing bars, steel, locomotive tires, wrought-iron or steel pipe, steel cable, galvanized wire, chain, hardware for millwork, bronze grills, bronze, brass tubing, ferrules, compression cups, valves, nails, cable thimbles, cable clips, saw sets, dies, drills, drill sockets, shackles, files, coke forks, shovels, automobile bells, sewer bends, aluminum cooking utensils, ground glass, soapstone table tops, leather, manila rope, binder posts, blotting paper, pencils, and dynamite. (Circular 1105.)

Propelling engine, No. 3880.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Milwaukee, Wis., until January 10, 1917, for furnishing a propelling engine, the thrust and spring bearings and shafts, etc., for light vessel No. 99. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Nails and rope, No. 3881.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Washington, D. C., until December 27, 1918, for furnishing and delivering at the Field Medical Supply Depot, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., manila rope and wire nails. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana....	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua.....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	do.....	"Islington," Watkerford, A m h e r s t County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby.....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Mesmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon....	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

SPANISH FIRM BUYS AMERICAN ALUMINUM WARE.

Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst reports that during the September quarter he was able to put an American manufacturer of aluminum goods who had advised the Barcelona consulate general of his desire to extend the sale of his wares in Spain and a Spanish importer who was seeking a source of supply of aluminum articles in touch with each other, with the gratifying result that an agency arrangement was entered into and more than \$300,000 worth of goods ordered.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Aniline colors.....	22327	Machinery, for brewery.....	22331
Bills, advertising.....	22324	Marble slabs.....	22340
Boxes, folding.....	22324	Novelties.....	22328
Chemicals.....	22327	Oils.....	22327
Chrome cards for packing.....	22324	Paper.....	22324
Clothing, men's.....	22322	Patent medicines.....	22326
Drugs.....	22327	Perfumery.....	22323
Electric installations.....	22327	Pipes, spiral water.....	22326
Furniture.....	22322	Railway materials.....	22326
Haberdashery.....	22322	Rubber goods.....	22326
Hardware.....	22329	Toilet preparations.....	22326
Labels, printed.....	22324	Tools.....	22329
Machinery, coffee roasting.....	22323	Turbine water wheels.....	22326

- 22321.*—A man in Portugal desires to purchase machinery for a brewery and malt house. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. American port, indicating, if possible, the freight charges. Payment will be made against documents in New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.
- 22322.†—A firm in Chile desires catalogues of men's clothing and haberdashery and furniture. Full information as to prices, terms of payment, etc., should be sent at once.
- 22323.*—The proprietor of a grocery store and bar in Spain wishes to purchase a coffee-roasting apparatus. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in Spanish.
- 22324.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for parchment and other paper, folding boxes, printed labels, and chrome cards for packing chocolates. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.
- 22325.*—A man in Portugal desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of railway materials. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York, indicating freight rate. Payment will be made against documents in New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.
- 22326.*—Two firms in Venezuela have made inquiries regarding turbine water wheels, spiral water pipe, and small electric installations. Correspondence in Spanish.
- 22327.*—A man in Spain is in the market for aniline colors, oil, etc., and drugs and chemicals. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made after examination of goods. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.
- 22328.†—A firm in England would like to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of toilet preparations, rubber goods, perfumery, patent medicines, and novelties.
- 22329.*—A wholesale merchant in Switzerland desires to purchase or obtain an agency for the sale of tools and hardware of all kinds. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.
- 22324.*—A firm in Peru wishes to purchase 50 pieces each of unpolished white and dark-gray marble. The slabs should be not less than 1 meter square and 2 centimeters thick. Samples of different marbles are also desired. Correspondence may be in English. Additional information may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices.

WESTERN FIRM PLEASED WITH BUREAU SERVICE.

In voicing its appreciation of the "Trade Opportunity" service of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, a Seattle firm reports the sale of 5,000 pounds of potato flour, with further orders promised if the first shipment proves satisfactory. The same firm, through information supplied by the American consulate general in Copenhagen, sold 1,890 boxes of apples to dealers in the Danish capital.

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 291 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, December 12 1916

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CAPITAL OF NEW NORWEGIAN COMPANIES.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Nov. 14.]

The extent to which Norwegian industry has expanded under the stimulus of the war is demonstrated in a compilation, published as an official bulleting relating to the capitalization of the new companies formed during the first nine months of the current year. The total amount of capital of these new companies is given as \$188,451,000, divided into six groups as follows: Shipping companies, \$148,736,000; banks, \$17,528,000; industrial companies, \$12,408,000; mining companies, \$2,139,000; insurance companies, \$4,325,000; other commercial enterprises, \$3,315,000. In addition, \$6,164,000 have been invested in public loans. For a country of the size of Norway, these figures are large.

INCREASED IMPORTS INTO NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 3.]

The imports into New Zealand for the quarter ended September 30, 1916, amounted to \$36,589,681, against \$32,270,827 for the same quarter of 1915, of which the United States supplied \$5,429,632, against \$3,935,110, respectively. The imports for the first nine months of 1916 amounted to \$94,840,781, against \$78,546,320 for the same period of 1915, of which the United States supplied \$14,687,661 and \$9,639,265, respectively. The total imports into New Zealand from the United States for 1915 amounted to only \$13,930,536, against \$14,687,661 for the first nine months of 1916.

SULPHATE OF COPPER SUPPLIES IN PIEDMONT.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Italy, Oct. 21.]

It would appear that the agitation among agriculturists during the early part of 1916 and the subsequent Government action for the provision of the necessary supplies of sulphate of copper, led to the desired results, as there are indications that considerable stock is still remaining on the market and is being offered for sale for the coming season at fair prices.

CITRON CROP IN WESTERN GREECE.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Nov. 1.]

The citron harvest for the Patras district has begun, and the first gathering has already appeared upon the central markets. Dealers report a crop of only about 400 tons in sight, as compared with a normal crop of nearly 1,000 tons. The shortage is attributed to lack of rains in the spring when the fruit was forming and also to the exceedingly hot, dry spell of June. The quality of the fruit is reported to be good.

Prices current on the local market are 20 shillings (\$4.87) per hundredweight (112 pounds) c. i. f. New York, as compared with 17 shillings (\$4.14) for last year. The cost of fruit has not varied greatly from that of last year, the difference in prices quoted being due to higher ocean freights.

Method of Preparing Citrons for Export.

The citron, which resembles closely a huge lemon, is gathered in October-November, as soon as the fruit is ripe, and brought to the central markets as it comes from the tree. Here the fruit is split in half lengthwise, and the halves are placed in casks of sea water or light brine, where they are left to soak and soften for about two weeks. When the fruit has become soft and the inner pulpy part has become translucent it is placed in a 20 per cent brine solution and is then ready for export. Shipments of citron are usually made in casks containing about 400 pounds of fruit each. The citron is used on the foreign markets for making of conserves. The crop of this district is usually sent to the United States and Belgium.

Shippers report great difficulty this year in securing barrels or casks of any kind at reasonable prices. Whereas in normal times a citron cask costs the exporter here about \$1, it is now hard to find even second-hand casks at prices lower than \$2, and good new casks are quoted at \$4 to \$5 each.

[The addresses of Patras firms which during the citron season of 1915-16 were interested in shipments to the American market may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 82692.]

AMERICAN APPLICATIONS FOR LYON SAMPLE FAIR.

The American committee of the sample fair to be held at Lyon, France, March 1 to 15, 1917, is now receiving applications from prospective exhibitors in this country. The committee has established headquarters at 1790 Broadway, New York. Its plans are fully described in a booklet recently issued—"The Lyons Sample Fair; an American export opportunity." The publication contains a summary of the exhibits at the 1916 fair; descriptive matter relating to the city, with illustrations; specifications for the booths, with estimates of their cost; and statements of the method of procuring accessories, cost of transportation and board, customhouse facilities, insurance against risks and claims, transportation in France, and hotel and boarding-house service.

Previous notices regarding this fair were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for August 22, September 1, and November 2, 1916. A full description of the 1916 fair was published in the issue of May 5, 1916.

EFFECT OF WAR ON SWISS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

[Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall, Oct. 31.]

The Union of Swiss Cooperative Purchasing Associations (Verband schweizerischer Konsumvereine) in its annual report for 1915 publishes a tabular statement of the turnover in and the prices of certain staples, to demonstrate how war conditions have affected the trade in articles handled by the Swiss purchasing societies. The prices of the year 1913, as a full peace year, are taken as normal in comparison with the following two years, which were partially or entirely affected by the war. The union's statement, changed to American equivalents, follows:

Articles.	Sales.			Price per pound.			Ratio to 1913.	
	1913	1914	1915	1913	1914	1915	1914	1915
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>
Bakery products.....	6,534,235	7,322,465	5,714,556	11.5	12.7	15.8	109.7	135.1
Beverages:								
Chicory.....	1,525,599	1,598,571	1,422,422	12.1	12.5	16.3	101.9	133.5
Coffee.....	1,565,943	1,471,144	1,241,643	41.4	41.4	39.7	100.4	95.7
Coffee, cereal.....	498,906	537,928	502,433	16.5	16.9	20.2	101.6	122.3
Tea.....	65,918	61,068	62,391	73.7	80.4	84.5	109.1	114.8
Breadstuffs:								
Barley.....	276,900	301,812	216,714	6.0	7.1	14.2	120.4	235.1
Flour.....	464,032	23,143		6.9	6.9		99.2	
Malze.....	3,076,087	3,133,628	5,105,861	4.0	4.8	6.0	119.7	151.0
Oats.....	1,598,351	1,101,649	510,370	3.5	5.2	6.9	145.2	193.5
Oat products.....	1,550,070	1,837,112	1,224,898	7.7	8.8	13.0	116.3	168.8
Rice.....	2,235,023	2,901,260	3,086,699	7.9	8.6	11.0	109.7	138.6
Sago and tapioca.....	36,376	69,890	41,667	10.4	15.4	15.0	146.4	142.8
Wheat.....	1,696,977	1,292,790		4.2	4.4		104.1	
Candies.....	337,087	338,409	345,023	10.6	11.0	13.0	102.9	122.7
Dairy products:								
Butter.....	1,591,737	1,224,227	1,315,939	60.9	59.6	68.5	98.0	112.4
Cheese.....	1,073,431	1,085,697	2,087,116	33.5	31.4	37.2	93.7	111.2
Eggs.....	8,570,900	10,641,000	4,575,100	1.6	1.8	2.6	109.3	160.5
Fats, edible.....	2,640,895	2,155,459	3,192,270	28.9	30.3	36.2	104.2	124.4
Fish, sea.....	19,842	23,148	661	10.2	10.2	25.6	100.0	250.1
Fruit, dried:								
Prunes.....	579,374	413,396	178,574	14.0	14.0	17.1	99.5	121.2
Apples and other.....	177,251	181,881	108,688	23.5	23.7	33.5	101.3	143.1
Fuel:								
Charcoal.....	1,673,749	1,775,503	1,937,863	3.8	3.6	3.7	95.5	95.5
Coal (briquets).....	107,329,420	122,722,258	112,085,407	0.4	0.3	0.6	104.8	161.9
Grits.....	1,020,079	833,788	638,017	6.9	7.1	10.7	102.2	154.4
Oils, edible.....	1,469,601	1,667,355	1,916,919	21.6	22.9	25.4	105.8	117.6
Soda.....	3,984,832	4,028,042	3,051,176	1.5	1.5	1.7	97.6	113.4
Spices.....	117,065	119,269	124,340	43.2	45.9	48.2	106.4	111.6
Starch.....	340,173	358,030	258,391	10.9	10.2	15.3	94.2	139.4
Sugar.....	21,943,046	27,257,982	27,716,985	7.7	7.9	10.1	103.0	132.0
Vegetables:								
Beans.....	432,326	332,457	563,060	8.3	10.6	12.8	129.2	153.7
Beets, turnips, etc.....	2,184,340	1,464,530	492,071	0.7	1.6	1.9	204.9	248.8
Lentils.....	153,882	163,142	661	7.7	7.9	19.3	102.0	245.7
Onions.....	932,996	901,029	819,458	2.3	5.2	6.9	217.7	292.0
Peas.....	759,272	652,568	260,586	7.7	9.8	15.0	127.7	193.6
Potatoes.....	12,780,625	35,528,634	9,794,707	1.4	2.1	2.7	154.8	191.8
Sauerkraut.....	906,981	710,549	479,946	3.8	5.0	7.0	128.2	180.7

• Number.

• Each.

The prices of a number of these articles have risen since the beginning of 1916 and will, no doubt, continue to rise. The prospects are not rosy, and it is possible that if the war continues some of the articles dealt in will not be procurable at any price.

The value of narcissus bulbs invoiced at the American consulate at Amoy, China, for the United States increased in value from \$3,439 for the first nine months of 1915 to \$14,620 for the same period in 1916.

FILM EXHIBITIONS AND MARKETS ABROAD.**FRANCE.**

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, Oct. 13.]

The Havre consulate has been requested by an American company engaged in the making of films to furnish information concerning the motion-picture theaters here and the opportunities for the sale of American films. This form of amusement has witnessed an important development in Havre since the beginning of the war, on account of the lack of other amusements, particularly regular theatrical performances, and the large military element in the population. All the picture theaters previously existing have been operated with full attendance, and a few new ones have been opened.

There has been an increasing use of American films, particularly short plays, both dramatic and comic. The managers of all the Havre motion-picture theaters assure this consulate that American films of all kinds are greatly appreciated and sought after.

In view of the widespread French interest in everything relating to the United States, it is regrettable that there are not more scenic films illustrating the beautiful and interesting spots of the United States. Important American occurrences, also, ought more frequently to be depicted in the current events shown in the French theaters. At present there is a rare sprinkling of these films.

Theater Has Branches Throughout France.

The Cinema Omnia Pathé, 153, Boulevard de Strasbourg, is the largest and most important motion-picture theater in this region. It is a spacious, well-ventilated, circular building, containing seats for 3,000 persons. It is controlled by the Société Omnia, which has branches throughout France. The management for this region controls the following theaters: Havre, Department of Seine Inférieure, Theatre-Cirque Omnia; Rouen, Department of Seine Inférieure, Theatre Omnia; Elbeuf, Department of Seine Inférieure, Theatre-Cirque Omnia; Caen, Department of Calvados, Cirque Omnia; Cherbourg, Department of Manche, Theatre Omnia.

The performances in Havre are given nightly except Mondays, with matinees on Thursdays and Sundays. The performance lasts about 2½ hours. All classes of films are given, including those in several parts. Strict censorship is exercised. The character of the program may be understood from the following description of a recent performance:

The first part opened with the playing by the orchestra of the national hymns of eight of the allied countries—Italy, Serbia, Russia, Belgium, Great Britain, Portugal, Roumania, and France—during which the entire audience remained standing. Then followed in order: "Open-Air Dance at Seville"; a drama in four parts entitled "The Word of the Enigma," a French film ingenious in plot and extremely well staged; and an intermission of five minutes.

The second part included the current events of the "Pathé Journal" and some war films, approved by the authorities. "The Exploits of Elaine" was one of a series of sensational films of American life, made in the United States. It is extremely popular here. The program ended with a French comic film entitled "Rigadin Seeks His Affinity."

Tobacco Shops' Coupons Reduce Prices.

The prices of admission range from 60 centimes (\$0.12) to 3 francs (\$0.58). Except on Sundays and holidays, these prices may be reduced about one-half by presenting "billets de faveur," which are given gratuitously to customers at tobacco shops. This system, which is common in Havre, necessarily discriminates against transients who know nothing of it and pay the scheduled prices.

The Select Palace, 123, Boulevard de Strasbourg, is controlled by the Société Ouest Cinéma. This theater has a seating capacity of 1,200. Its performances, which last about 2½ hours, include all kinds of films of all marks except the Pathé. The price of admission varies from 1 franc (\$0.19) to 3 franc (\$0.58), the average being 2 francs (\$0.39). A recent performance included the following features:

Part 1.—The Portuguese and Russian national hymns and "The Marseillaise" by the orchestra; a scenic film illustrating San Martino (7 minutes); a comedy in 3 parts, "Moulinett's School" (35 minutes); comic film, "A Dentist in Spite of Himself" (30 minutes); intermission of 5 minutes.

Part 2.—War views approved by the French authorities; drama in 3 parts, "Mistinguett of the Golden Hair" (1 hour); a film described as a roaring farce, "Tic de Casimir."

Kursaal Cinema, 22 Rue de Paris, seats 700 persons. Its performance lasts 2½ hours and includes all kinds of films. Those with dramatic subjects usually consist of 2 or 3 parts, sometimes 4 parts, and are of 600 to 1,200 meters. A typical program was as follows: "The Tragic Appeal," described as a grand drama in 2 parts; "A Hole in the Moon," comedy; second episode of Charlot and Lolotte; "The Powder Works," grand drama; "Mexican Love," a drama of the Far West.

Various Products Used on Programs.

All marks of films are used in this theater except Gaumont and Pathé. The prices paid for their use vary considerably. The manager estimated 800 to 1,000 francs (\$152 to \$193) per week for the use of five or six films. For the purchase of used films the average price is 10 to 15 centimes (\$0.02 to \$0.03) per meter. The prices of admission are 40 centimes (\$0.08), 50 centimes (\$0.10), 60 centimes (\$0.12), and 1 franc (\$0.19). No billets de faveur are issued by this cinema.

The Gaumont, 16 Rue de la Comedie, run in connection with a café, has a seating capacity of about 400. The films are of all kinds. Dramatic offerings are usually in several parts. This theater has contracts with the Gaumont and Obert Companies, of Paris, whose films are used exclusively. The prices of admission are 40 centimes (\$0.08), 50 centimes (\$0.10), 75 centimes (\$0.14), and 1 franc (\$0.19). This theater also issues the half-price tickets obtainable at tobacco shops.

The Cinema Olympia, 14 Rue Edoard-Larue, like the Gaumont, is run in connection with a café and restaurant. It has 300 seats. The program is composed mainly of dramatic subjects in several parts. The films are rented from the larger companies in Paris, particularly Pathé and Gaumont. Many American and Italian films are also shown. Recently excellent Italian films introducing

a celebrated Russian actress have been presented. The prices of admission are 75 centimes (\$0.14) and 1.5 francs (\$0.29), subject to 50 per cent reduction on presentation of special tickets.

Total Seating Capacity of Local Picture Theaters.

According to the reports made to the consulate by the respective managers, the total seating capacity of the five picture theaters of Havre that have been mentioned is 5,600. distributed as follows: Omnia-Pathé, 3,000; Select-Palace, 1,200; Kursaal, 700; Gaumont, 400; Olympia, 300.

Besides the houses mentioned there are a few minor theaters which bring the total seating capacity for the city and suburbs up to about 6,000. While Havre has a normal population of 136,159, which is increased to about 170,000 when the contiguous suburbs are included, the present population served by the motion-picture theaters mentioned is fully 200,000. This gives a ratio of 1 seat for every 33 persons in the community, apparently all that is required.

The publicity methods used are very thorough. Besides hand-bills gratuitously distributed at each performance giving the features of the program for the following week, similar announcements are made in the amusement columns of the daily newspapers, and large posters are used on the billboards. Some of these posters are elaborately illustrated in colors and compel the attention of the public. Certain of the moving-picture theaters also employ portable billboards on carts which are drawn through the city.

[Vice Consul Davis B. Levis, St. Etienne, Oct. 9.]

Commission of Five Selected for Censorship.

The recent action of the French Government, acting through the Ministry of the Interior, for the regulation of motion pictures is of interest to American manufacturers of films. The ministry has created a commission of five, composed of four members from the department and the subchief of the Prefecture of Police of Paris, for the performance of duties similar to those of the boards of censorship in the United States.

Before a picture may be shown it must be passed upon by this commission. If it is accepted, a permit is issued for its exhibition, subject to the action of local departmental and municipal authorities, whose approval may be given or withheld, and whose decision is final as far as their respective jurisdictions are concerned. The sanction of the commission is intended rather as an indication of the worthiness of the picture. The members have asked for the active cooperation of municipal authorities in the suppression of unauthorized and objectionable films.

Effect Hampered by Use of English.

A complaint from the manager of a large picture theater in St. Etienne calls attention to the fact that while the reading matter used with American pictures is in French, most of the comedy pictures (which usually have fewest of these "inserts"), have many signs in English, such as "No swimming allowed," "Boarders wanted," "Beware of the dog," etc. There are also supposed speeches by persons and animals in illustrated cartoons, upon which

the reason for the situation or the motive of the action depend, and much is lost to the audience because they are in English.

The manager quoted believes that while this might occur in an occasional film finding its way here, the fault could be obviated by a "take over" with the signs in the language of the country they are intended for. In the preparation of the various series of American comedy films now appearing on nearly every program, which on account of their extensive advertising appear to have been designed originally for this market, the suggestion might be taken into consideration.

Although there are several French and Italian comedies with a following, the American rough-comedy film is far in the lead here. The French polite farce or "vaudeville," as written for the screen by well-known authors and portrayed by artists of the Parisian theaters, occupies a high place of its own.

SPAIN:

[Vice Consul Harris N. Cookingham, Barcelona, Oct. 16.]

Programs in Barcelona and Various Cities and Towns.

Throughout the Barcelona district of Spain motion-picture exhibitions in the smaller towns are held perhaps only two evenings a week, but in the larger towns and cities pictures are shown at several halls both afternoon and evening daily. In the smaller places a program frequently consists of 2,000 to 2,500 meters of films, of which one subject may have about 1,500 meters, and the remainder of the program may be made up of pictures of 200 to 500 meters. The average program in Barcelona comprises some 5,000 meters in which one new subject is presented each day. Each picture is exhibited for 3 days.

Greater Barcelona has 54 motion-picture theaters, with an average capacity of probably 1,500 persons. Some of these houses have vaudeville performances in addition to the pictures, but in the greater number only motion pictures are given.

Range of Charges for Admission.

The admission fees for the exhibitions, which often last 3 or more hours, vary from 0.10 to 0.60 peseta (approximately \$0.02 to \$0.12), according to the class of the theater and the location of the seat. The "preferred" seats in the best theaters cost 0.60 peseta and other seats 0.30 peseta. In the cheaper halls the preferred seats cost 0.20 or 0.25 peseta (about \$0.04 or \$0.05) and the general admission is 0.10 or 0.15 peseta.

The programs usually are made up of 4 or 5 unrelated films, of which one is a dramatic subject of 3 or more reels and the others miscellaneous subjects of about 300 meters each. Where serial pictures are shown, two numbers of the series are exhibited in an evening in addition to the shorter films of varied subjects.

The types of pictures especially favored here are dramatic subjects of 4 or 5 reels with intrigue and plenty of action. The Nor-disk films are popular. So also are various Italian and French dramatic films and American comic pictures of one reel (about 300 meters). Scenic offerings are not as popular as those having either

dramatic or farcical plot, although scientific films and picture reviews of current events are shown.

American Serials Win Popular Favor.

In addition to the French and Italian products mentioned, pictures of British and German origin are occasionally exhibited, as well as more recently those of Spanish manufacture. American serials are shown here profitably, but the shorter films except those of a humorous character can not, it is stated, be handled here as extensively as those of other origin because of their high prices. European pictures frequently are sold to dealers in Spain at 1 to 1.25 pesetas a meter. In special instances, where the film is of particularly high class, better prices are obtained.

Spanish dealers rent the films to exhibitors for terms of three days at an average rental of 0.20 to 0.25 peseta a meter for the term. In Spain it is not considered sound business ethics for importers to purchase films already used, and accordingly no specific prices are established for films not entirely new. Those which are no longer available for exhibition purposes in Spain have no local market value as material.

For the prospective exporter of motion-picture films to Spain, undoubtedly the volume in Spanish published under the title, "Anuario Cinematográfico de España, 1916," José Sola Guardiola, Consejo de Ciento 280, Barcelona, would prove of interest and value as describing the industry.

Barcelona Large Importer of Films and Apparatus.

As the motion picture is such a popular form of amusement here, the proportions of the business have developed considerably until Barcelona is rated as the chief importing city in the peninsula for films and apparatus. One disadvantage to be overcome in the importation of American pictures is the sale by American exporters of used films of which new copies are afterwards sold to other Spanish importers. The high prices at which most of the American products are sold to these importers also tend to create an obstacle to the unlimited development of the market, inasmuch as the Spanish dealers find it more profitable to handle European products. Under present circumstances the shorter American films are not considered profitable unless they embody some special feature, such as the appearance of a well-known motion-picture actor.

It would be well to offer prospective customers in Spain the most attractive terms of sale, which should compare favorably with those granted under normal conditions by European manufacturers. These are generally credits of 60 to 90 days, or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise.

Lower Prices After First Exhibitions.

While the average rental for films, covering terms of three days, is 0.20 to 0.25 peseta a meter to the exhibitors, it should be explained that these prices are for motion pictures which have not previously been exhibited here. After the first exhibitions the theaters pay lower prices until at last the films are sent to the smaller towns for display during two days of the week at rental prices of 0.03 to 0.04 peseta a meter.

The posters of films to be exhibited in Spain are extremely important as a means of insuring the success of the picture play. As a general rule a good film depends for a large part of its popularity upon skillful advertising. In addition to the very essential photographic views of the play, which are often displayed not only in the theater lobbies but also in prominent shop windows throughout the city, and accordingly should be attractive and composed of numerous scenes, the importers and exhibitors desire large posters of 12-sheet and 18-sheet sizes, as well as the quad crown and 6-sheet size.

[A list of importers of motion-picture films at Barcelona may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81927.]

[Consul John R. Putnam, Valencia, Oct. 17.]

Dramatic Pictures Most Popular in Valencia.

Valencia has about 15 regular film theaters, with an average seating capacity of 350, including approximately 90 "preferencia" or reserved seats. In addition, two large theaters are devoted, except during short periods, to film productions, and are the principal ones for such attractions. One of these has a seating capacity of 250 box seats, 852 preferencia seats, and 700 general-admission seats. The other theater seats 180 in the boxes, 442 in the preferencia, and has a capacity for 800 general admissions. Six other important theaters have some film performances.

Admission prices, although often raised when important films are shown, are usually as follows: Boxes, with five admissions, from 40 to 80 cents; preferencia, from 5 to 7 cents; and general admission, from 2 to 3 cents. In certain houses reductions are made for children and for the purchase of a number of tickets for different performances.

A film performance lasts from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 hours, and is shown from 2 to 4 times daily. It includes a long 4-part or 5-part film, a shorter one in lighter vein, and, at the end, a comic film. All types are to be seen, but dramatic pictures seem to be most popular. Those showing comic celebrities, or having a detective plot, or presenting cowboy scenes, draw large audiences. Reviews of current events are shown regularly in Valencia, and two spectacular films, *El Cristo* and *Julio Cesar*, have been exhibited recently with marked success.

Chief Form of Amusement for All Classes.

During the heat of the summer the people here seek the seashore and country, and many of the theaters are closed, but during the rest of the year film performances constitute the principal form of amusement for all classes. It is doubtful if unused films are shown in Valencia, for practically all first runs are exhibited in Barcelona or Madrid. The only used films purchased, however, are those which have not previously been shown in Spain and which are in good condition. The average rental is 2 cents per meter at the first theater for each day, and two-fifths of a cent per meter per day at other theaters thereafter. The brands most commonly shown are, "Nordisk," "Cines," "Ambrosio," "Keystone," and "Tiber." Films cost from 16 to 25 cents, c. i. f. Valencia. The price given is by the meter and is equal to about 4.8 to 7.5 cents per foot.

Duty on films, used and unused, is levied under article 530 of the Spanish import tariff at 3 pesetas per kilo (\$0.263 per pound).

[A list of firms in Valencia which handle motion-picture films may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81940. Articles on motion pictures in France were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 14 and Oct. 30, 1916.]

SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 18.]

Little Prospect of Direct Dealings with Swiss Theaters.

Swiss dealers in motion-picture films purchase them on their own account, chiefly against cash, and rent them in turn to the picture theaters, of which there are about 130 in the country, including 25 in the Berne consular district. The average seating capacity of the Swiss motion-picture house is 120, and the average admission fee, \$0.18. The most important of these dealers is the Schweiz. Filmgesellschaft, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and a branch at Zürich, Switzerland. Another important concern is the Pathé Film-Verleihgesellschaft, Gerbergasse 2, Zürich, which buys and rents films of the French Pathé Society. A third dealer is the World Co., of Geneva. It would be useless to enter into direct relations with the individual motion-picture houses.

Cheaper Grades of American Pictures Shown.

The demand for American films in Switzerland seems good. Most theaters produce them. Unfortunately, however, only the cheaper pictures of American manufacture are seen here. "Mysteries of New York" is now playing at Berne, but the pretentious "Battle Cry of Peace" is advertised for later presentation.

The films on the market are 25 per cent German, 20 per cent French, and 25 per cent Italian. Before the war French films predominated. They had about 50 per cent of the trade. Italian films are well liked at present, especially those connected with the artist Francesca Bertini. Those produced by the Nordische Film Co., Stockholm, Sweden, also appear at times.

The American films most widely used in Switzerland are devoted to comic and dramatic subjects. The former class consists of short incidents while the dramatic photoplays last in some instances more than an hour. The usual program in Berne calls for 2½ to 3 hours of entertainment, consisting of 2 long films and 3 or 4 short ones.

Detective and Wild West Dramas Popular.

Some of the American film companies have branch offices at Paris. These are in a position to fill the needs of the Swiss trade on short notice. It is claimed that American films meet with greatest success in those sections of Switzerland where French is spoken. This is explained by the love of the French-Swiss for American detective plays, Indian, and wild West pictures. A local motion-picture man suggests that such plays probably would succeed in the German sections, and adds that the stories should appear in both the French and German languages. French authorities, however, since the war began have not permitted to pass over French soil those with descriptions in German. Swiss film dealers consequently are compelled to change

the French stories into German. This work is done by two factories in Switzerland—Iris Film A. G., Waisenhastr. 2, Zürich, and the Eos Film, Rosenthal & Fechter, Freiestr. 32, Basel, Switzerland.

There are no companies in Switzerland engaged in the manufacture of these products. Swiss mountain landscapes are reproduced by the French and Germans and by the American Burlingham.

Average Rental and Sale Prices.

The average rental prices of films are about \$0.07 to \$0.10 per meter. A dramatic film of 4 acts costs the theaters about \$155 per week. Swiss dealers pay from \$0.15 to \$0.60 per meter, according to quality.

Switzerland has a weekly periodical devoted to photoplays. The address of publishers is: Kinema, Annoncen Expedition, Gerbergasse 8, Zürich.

The duty on finished cinematograph films, used or new, according to No. 902 of the Swiss customs tariff, is \$5.79 per 220 pounds.

Correspondence with dealers may be in French or German. About 69 per cent of the people in Switzerland speak German, 21 per cent French, and 8 per cent Italian and Romansch.

JAPAN.

[Vice Consul William R. Langdon, Yokohama, Oct. 17.]

Popularity of American Films Increases Rapidly.

The past two years have seen American motion-picture films rise rapidly in popularity and practically supersede all other imported films in Japan. Italian pictures are about the only other foreign products commonly exhibited in Japan, but they are steadily losing ground in competition with the productions of American studios.

Tokyo has 120 motion-picture theaters and Yokohama has about 50. In Tokyo the largest six and in Yokohama the largest two show foreign films exclusively, while the houses with limited seating capacity usually have a mixed program of Japanese and foreign pictures. It is in the poorest and smallest theaters that only Japanese films are used.

The Japanese are developing into enthusiastic "movie fans," especially the laboring and servant classes, among whom well-known American film actors are becoming great favorites. The present tendency appears to be for Japanese plays to wane in popularity.

Enthusiasm Unaffected by Discomfort in Theater.

Motion-picture houses in Tokyo and Yokohama hold from 500 to 1,000 persons. The price of admission ranges from 5 to 15 cents, and one house in Yokohama charges 30 cents per "special" seat. Double prices are charged when the program contains some especially good or expensive film. The cheapest seats consist of rows of hard wooden benches on the ground floor, and the first-class and second-class seats are always in the gallery. The usual performance lasts three hours, and in most cases consists of two or three single-reel comedies, one instructive or scenic film, and a few "episodes" from a serial or a two-act or three-act "sensational" drama.

The Moving Picture World, Hongo, Tokyo, and the Kinema Record, 7 Minami Tomisaka Cho, Asakusa Ku, Tokyo, are the only

publications in Japan dealing with the motion-picture business. Each is a medium for advertising.

The market for American cameras, projectors, and accessories is poor, as these articles are made in Japan and there is a 50 per cent ad valorem import duty on them.

Fewer American Films Bought Outright.

The average rental for film is 2 cents per foot a day, regardless of the quality or cost of production. Importers invariably lose money when they buy and import a high-priced feature film from the United States, for they can rent it for no more than is paid for cheap productions, so they are abandoning the practice of buying American films outright. Importers can afford to purchase only cheap new or second-hand, but originally expensive, films.

It would be profitable to everybody concerned if some agreement could be reached through which the importer would receive costly American films on a rental basis, putting up a bond for their return to America after due circulation and exhibition. The import duty on films is \$3.10 per pound, inclusive of inner packings.

[Lists of importers and film exchanges at Tokyo and Yokohama may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82060.]

[Consul A. A. Williamson, Dairen, Manchuria, Oct. 18.]

Railway Company Runs House in Manchuria.

Dairen has three motion-picture houses with an average seating capacity of 500. Admission prices are 15 sen and 30 sen (about 7½ and 15 cents) for two of them, and 5 and 10 sen (2½ and 5 cents) for the third. One place is run by the South Manchuria Railway in connection with an amusement park. This house uses foreign films only—scenic, dramatic, comic, and miscellaneous. It is the cheapest of the three, but as it is situated outside the town proper the attendance is smaller. It is inaccessible to vehicles and is closed during stormy weather. It is the only house that buys films, though some that it shows are hired.

The remaining two houses hire motion pictures or subscribe to services maintained by syndicates in Japan. The films supplied are made by Ambrosio (Italian), Pathé (French), Keystone, and one or two other American companies.

Dairen is a free port, and there is no duty to pay on imports, but the local houses find it advantageous to subscribe to a "circuit," and American manufacturers would find it best to get in touch with the companies in Japan supplying these "circuits." Their addresses may be obtained from the consulate general at Yokohama.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

NORWEGIAN WOOD PULP AND PAPER MILLS COMBINE.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Nov. 7.]

The tendency in the wood pulp, cellulose, and paper industries of Norway in recent years has been toward centralization, with the result that there are now two strong combinations in existence, the one known as the Union Co. and the other as the Borregaard Co. According to reports the former is now seeking to absorb the latter.

A contest is on between these two groups and the forest owners' association, owing to the high timber prices recently fixed by the association for the coming season. Both sides are well organized and powerful, so that dealings between them are subject more or less to compromise. The lumber mills, however, are not so strong and are compelled to pay the enhanced prices demanded, with the result that the cost of building material has risen considerably.

High Prices of Timber—Scarcity of Labor.

The pulp-wood mills which in 1914 were paying 13 crowns (\$3.48) per cubic meter for timber, are now obliged to pay 25 crowns, and it is reported that 30 crowns has been demanded. Under such conditions it may become impossible for the Norwegian mills to continue to compete in the foreign markets and some anxiety exists regarding the future of the industries concerned.

A great deal of timber is being cut this year in the Drammen district, but labor is scarce and difficult to obtain even at the increased wages offered. Cutters are receiving \$2.70 to \$3.20 per day and drivers as high as \$5.40. The larger part of the 6,000,000 logs that will be cut this season will be handled through the forest owners' mutual selling association. Some lumber dealers have purchased cutting rights in order to become independent of this association.

COTTON SITUATION IN BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Oct. 28.]

The annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association—a society that for some years has been fostering the cotton industry of West Africa through experimental pioneering and educational work—contains the following statements concerning the 1916 season:

The distribution of cotton seed in Lagos, Southern Nigeria, for planting the 1916-17 crop is now almost completed, and up to September 705 tons of seed had been sent out, which points to a considerable increase in acreage and a large crop if the weather proves favorable. This seed is provided free by the British Cotton Growing Association, and the cost of distribution is borne by the Government.

Various reports have been received giving reasons for the increased quantity of cotton purchased last season in Northern Nigeria. The increase is ascribed partly to favorable climatic conditions and partly to the augmented importation of European cloth, whereby the local native demand for the raw material was considerably reduced. The reports all show that the natives were pleased with the price paid them for their cotton at Zaria.

The purchases of cotton in Lagos to the end of August amounted to 9,134 bales of 400 pounds each, compared with 5,748 bales for the corresponding period of last year and 13,415 bales in 1914. The purchases in Northern Nigeria to the end of July amounted to 10,499 bales, against 467 bales for the first seven months of 1915 and 505 bales in 1914.

[For other reports on Nigerian cotton see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 25 and Mar. 4, 1916.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.	Bordeaux, France....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.	Santos, Brazil	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene....	Barmen, Germany....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.	Dundee, Scotland....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.	...do	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Build- ing, New York City.
Smith, James A.	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell....	Cornwall, Ontario....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard	Quebec, Quebec....	...do	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

WORK OF THE CENSUS BUREAU.

An idea of the comprehensive nature of the study of the manufacturing industries of the country that is carried on by the United States Bureau of the Census may be obtained from the annual report of that bureau to Secretary of Commerce Redfield for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916. During that year it compiled and published the greater part of the primary or fundamental statistics from its latest canvass of the manufacturing industries besides conducting numerous other inquiries which it is directed by law to make at regular intervals. The preliminary figures from the manufactures census—which show that during the calendar year 1914 the manufacturing industries of this country turned out products valued at more than \$24,000,000,000 and gave employment to more than 8,000,000 persons, to whom were paid approximately \$5,367,000,000 in salaries and wages—were published at earlier dates, relatively to the period covered, than the corresponding ones for preceding censuses. The bureau has begun the issuance of the final reports in the form of a series of bulletins which will later be bound together in large volumes.

Three important investigations are planned for the coming year—one relating to transportation by water, another to religious bodies, and a third, if authorized by the passage of a joint resolution now

pending in Congress, to marriage and divorce. The first two of these inquiries are, under the law, made at decennial intervals.

New Division of Cotton and Tobacco Statistics.

A new division—the Division of Cotton and Tobacco Statistics—which has been created in the Census Bureau in pursuance of a provision contained in the last appropriation act, will have charge of the cotton and tobacco work heretofore carried on in the Division of Manufactures. The same act directs the collection and publication of statistics relating to stocks of leaf tobacco at quarterly intervals instead of semiannually as heretofore. Reports are to be issued at intervals of three months in which will be given statistics as to the amounts of cotton, linters, cotton waste, and hull fiber consumed in the manufacture of explosives and of absorbent and medicated cotton; and monthly reports relating to cotton seed and its products will be published.

The annual collection of birth statistics from a “registration area” embracing nearly one-third of the total population of the country has been begun by the bureau; the first report on this subject will relate to the calendar year 1915. A special inquiry to be undertaken in the near future will relate to the cost of city cartage as a factor in the cost of living. Little is now known as to the extent to which this factor contributes to the total cost of transportation and distribution.

STATISTICS OF SIAMESE NORTHERN RAILWAY.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 26.]

The report of the operation of the Siamese Northern Railway for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, has been published. At the close of the year the total length of the line open for traffic was 871.7 kilometers (541.6 miles), of which 35.7 kilometers had been opened during the year.

The gross receipts amounted to \$1,811,294, against \$1,662,593 in the preceding year, and the net profit, after making deductions for the renovation fund, amounted to 5.28 per cent on the capital outlay of \$21,599,721 on all the open lines at the close of the year, as compared with 4.74 per cent in the preceding year.

The number of ordinary passengers carried was 2,609,730, an increase of 179,234, as compared with the preceding year. The quantity of goods carried was 380,757 tons, an increase of 12,602 tons over last year. The live stock transported amounted to 105,533 head, an increase of 28,469.

Among the commodities carried showing an increase over the preceding year were: Betel nuts, 679 tons; cement and cement ware, 688 tons; coconuts, 645 tons; kapi (a Siamese condiment made from prawns), 424 tons; salt, 2,248 tons; rice, 2,512 tons. A new item consisted of 23,110 tons of marl for the recently established cement factory.

The extension of the northern line is proceeding, and in about one year it is expected that trains will be running as far as Chiangmai, the northern capital of the Kingdom.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency.....	23247	Hosiery.....	23241
Aniline colors.....	23246	Machinery, soft drink.....	23243
Buttons.....	23241	Needles.....	23241
Cane for chair seats.....	23245	Oils for toilet preparations.....	23246
Carbonic acid gas.....	23248	Piece goods.....	23241
Chair backs, veneered.....	23245	Pins.....	23241
Chair seats, veneered.....	23245	Shoes.....	23241, 23244
Combs.....	23241	Soap.....	23244
Drugs for toilet preparations.....	23246	Sprayers, bottle.....	23246
Galvanized iron sheets.....	23242	Tubes, collapsible.....	23246
Garters.....	23241	Underwear.....	23241, 23244
Gloves.....	23244		

23241.†—A firm in Russia, with a branch office in the United States, would like to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of women's shoes, hosiery, knit underwear, gloves, garters, combs, pins, needles, and buttons. Reference.

23242.*—A hardware merchant in Spain desires to import galvanized, corrugated, and plain iron sheets. Full information as to sizes, shipping and packing instructions, etc., may be had on application to the Bureau or its District Offices. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23243.*—A man in Canada would like to receive catalogues and price lists of machinery and supplies for making nonalcoholic beverages. He also wishes liquid carbonic acid gas. Quotations should be made f. o. b. factory. Payment will be made in cash. Reference.

23244.*—A firm in Italy desires to represent American manufacturers of boots, shoes, and underwear for women and children; also piece goods, soap, and gloves. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23245.*—An importer in Switzerland is in the market for wholesale quantities of veneer seats and backs for chairs and cane for chair seats. He also desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of these articles. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Havre, Bordeaux, or Marseille. Cash will be paid upon delivery of goods at seaport. Veneer seats and backs should be packed in crates and cane in oilcloth. It is requested that samples be submitted by post. Correspondence in English. Two samples of the quality of cane and a catalogue showing the kinds of backs and seats desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 81967.) References.

23246.*—A firm in Spain which manufactures perfumes and toilet articles would like to communicate with American exporters of aniline colors, drugs, and oils used in the manufacture of toilet preparations. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Barcelona. References.

23247.*—A man in Brazil desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is specified. References.

23248.*—A manufacturer of pharmaceutical products in Switzerland is in the market for collapsible tubes and sprayers for bottles. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

During the year ended November 30, 1916, the United States Bureau of Lighthouses established 16 new lighted aids and 14 unlighted aids, 30 in all, in Alaskan waters.

PRINCE OF WALES COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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No. 292 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 13. 1916

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BRITISH REGULATION OF COPPER SUPPLIES.

[Cablegram from the American Consul General at London, dated Dec. 9.]

Minister of Munitions forbids the purchase or sale, except for carrying out of existing contracts, and all negotiations in relation to sale or purchase of copper of any class, wrought or unwrought, situated outside the United Kingdom without special permit from the Ministry. Minister likewise directs return to Ministry, not later than December 16, reports respecting all unwrought copper in stock or under control, unwrought copper due for future delivery, and all contracts except for sale or purchase of unwrought copper.

BRITISH FLOUR-MILLING REGULATIONS.

[Cablegram from the American Consul General at London, dated Dec. 9.]

From January 1, except as hereafter stated, only flour milled according to schedule may be used for food purposes. Following percentage of flour must be extracted: From American wheat No. 2 Red Western, 76; No. 2 Red Winter, 74; No. 2 New Hard Winter, 76; No. 1 North Duluth, 75; No. 1 Northern Manitoba old crop, 76; No. 2 ditto, 75; No. 3 ditto, 73. Imported flour which does not comply with the foregoing percentages may be used until further notice, provided that North American spring wheat flour so imported is not whiter than sample of straight run flour manufactured in Glasgow, at time imported flour was purchased, from North American spring wheat of grade not lower than No. 3 North Manitoba; provided also that other wheat flour imported is not whiter than sample straight run flour manufactured here at time imported flour was purchased. Flour already purchased for importation, whether arrived or not, will be deemed as purchased on December 12.

RECENT FRENCH CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

The requirement imposed by the French Minister of Finance that on and after December 1 declarations of import and export of goods subject to specific duty and also of those exempt from duty must state the value of the goods at the place and time of presentation to

the customs was reported briefly by the Consul General, as announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 31.

Additional information on the same subject has been received from the Commercial Attaché at Paris, who states that the new regulation is independent of the requirements for application of custom duties, and discusses the necessity of the new ruling as follows:

In the monthly statistical reports of the customs authorities, the values of imports and exports are calculated according to average valuations fixed by a permanent commission on customs valuations. During the first month of each year, in the absence of a fixed scale of values applicable to the current year, use is made of the estimated value adopted for the preceding year. These estimated values are frequently at considerable variance with the actual prices of imported goods. In ordinary times this inaccuracy is not serious, in view of the fact that price differences from year to year are not as a rule considerable. Since the beginning of the war, however, the general level of prices has risen so considerably that in some instances present prices are double those which prevailed in 1914, whereas there has been little or no change in the estimated values used as a basis for the computations of the customs authorities.

Statement of Destination of Imported Merchandise.

The commercial attaché has also reported the issuance of a decree, dated November 14, and effective on January 1, 1917, which establishes the following regulation:

Importers of merchandise of foreign manufacture or origin are required to indicate, in their declaration to the customs authorities, the names and addresses of the persons or firms for whom these goods are intended, and to state whether or not the goods are intended for the Government or for enterprises working for the Government. To determine the accuracy of these statements, the customs authorities may require the exhibition of shipping documents, contracts, and other necessary documents. In case of doubt, the customs authorities are authorized to place the goods under bond.

STUDY OF CARTAGE AS FACTOR IN LIVING COST.

A report on the preliminary survey concerning the subject of city cartage or local distribution of commodities has been made to Secretary of Commerce Redfield by Director Sam. L. Rogers, of the United States Bureau of the Census. The results of this investigation, which was made in the city of Washington, confirm the general impression that the cost of city cartage is a factor of considerable magnitude in the price paid by the consumer, and, in the opinion of Secretary Redfield, justify the Census Bureau in selecting some representative city or cities and detailing experts for the purpose of making a more comprehensive study of the subject of delivery cost in relation to the price of commodities.

For the four selected classes of merchandise covered by the preliminary survey—ice, coal and wood, milk, and department-store merchandise—representing total gross sales of about \$6,000,000, the cost of delivery alone amounted to nearly \$500,000, or about 8 per cent, according to the figures compiled. It is the Secretary's belief that in this single phase of cost great economies are possible, and he also believes that the survey of the selected city or cities—revealing, as it doubtless will, the very considerable proportion which the cost of cartage contributes to retail prices—will focus the attention of consumers upon the great saving to be effected by eliminating duplication and thus be of distinct aid in reducing the cost of living.

COFFEE EXPORTATION FROM COSTA RICA.

[Consul Benjamin F. Chase, San José, Nov. 25.]

According to an official publication just issued, the total exportation of coffee from all Costa Rica during the past season (August, 1915, to April, 1916) was 37,134,182 pounds gross, or 33,853,707 pounds net, of which 66.34 per cent was fully treated and 33.66 per cent was with the parchment covering. The coffee shipped "in parchment" has had the fermentation and the drying processes, but no other. It is called Pergamino. That fully machined is called Beneficiado. In figuring net weight a reduction of 18 per cent is made for the parchment-covered coffee, and there is also an allowance for tare. How this quantity compares with exports in preceding seasons the following table discloses:

Season.	Pergamino.	Beneficiado.	Total.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
1906-7.....	21,639,978	16,556,275	38,196,253
1907-8.....	12,332,989	7,399,076	19,732,065
1908-9.....	12,050,261	14,471,575	26,521,836
1909-10.....	18,397,415	13,342,370	31,739,785
1910-11.....	17,088,045	10,782,929	27,869,974
1911-12.....	13,036,539	13,943,354	26,979,893
1912-13.....	10,774,461	17,827,647	28,702,108
1913-14.....	19,035,512	20,023,932	39,059,444
1914-15.....	12,619,062	14,281,345	26,910,407
1915-16.....	12,498,004	24,635,178	37,134,182

Of the amount exported in 1915-16, the United Kingdom took 50.20 per cent, the United States 42.19 per cent, and the remainder was sent to France, Spain, Italy, Panama, and Chile. Almost half of the entire production is from the Province of San José.

No estimate is issued of the approximate crop for the present season. Harvesting in some parts of the country is now under way; that of this immediate region will soon begin.

EXPORTS OF COTTON.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending December 9, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	12,482	Virginia.....	710
Massachusetts.....	6,337	Galveston.....	56,892
Maryland.....	15,233	New Orleans.....	26,571
New York.....	11,741	San Francisco.....	7,641
North Carolina.....	0	Washington.....	1,924
Philadelphia.....	3,980		
South Carolina.....	3,100	Total.....	146,611

The exports of 146,611 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 2,715,265 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 98,581 bales for the week and 1,985,552 bales in the cotton year.

WAR DEVELOPS JAPAN'S CORAL INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul Henry B. Hitchcock, Nagasaki, Nov. 16.]

The coral industry of Japan has received a strong stimulus from the European war. Previously this country exported about half of its crude coral to Italy, where there was a steady demand for it on account of the practical exhaustion of the coral beds in the Mediterranean. Skilled Italian workmen carved the coral into the various forms demanded by the fashions and tastes of the Occident. As Italian-carved coral it was sold through Dutch distributors to the whole world.

Since the outbreak of the war there has been a natural decrease in the demand for carved coral, but the chief difficulty encountered in supplying the market has been that of making direct shipments of crude coral from Japan to Italy. Usually it has been necessary to make one or two transshipments en route, with incidental expense and delays. This produced a decrease in the quantity exported to Italy. The resulting situation caused the Japanese to fall back on their own resources in undertaking to absorb the surplus of crude coral left in the home markets.

Italians Familiar With Occidental Demands.

The Italian dominance in the coral industry has been due to priority in the field and to a knowledge of the styles of carving in demand among Occidental buyers. Japan has been handicapped, not by a lack of skill in carving (for it is in the domain of small carvings that Japan has been recognized as supreme) but by failure to have an up-to-date knowledge of Occidental fashions and tastes. It was only necessary to teach artisans already skilled in carving ivory and wood to work with a new medium. But the Japanese have not ventured to produce any manufactured coral except what was suited for sale in the home market. This has been practically limited to beads and netsuké (small buttons used as ornaments on the strings of tobacco pouches). The beads are of all sizes and are sold in strings of 3 or 4 inches in length, as hair ornaments for women. Large single beads, from one-half to three-quarters of an inch in diameter, are used as the heads of large ornamental hairpins much in favor among Japanese women. In the manufacture of coral beads the Japanese are recognized as the equals if not the superiors of the Italian workmen.

A realization of the opportunity created by the war for Japan to take the place of Italy in the production of carved coral has led the Japanese Government, through the marine experiment stations, to undertake the training of artisans in the carving of coral for sale in Europe and America. It is hoped by this measure to increase the value of coral exports from the \$500,000 received each year for the crude coral exported, to \$35,000,000 for exports consisting entirely of carved coral.

Special Agent Assists in Developing Industry.

A special agent of the Imperial Fisheries Bureau is detailed to assist in the development of the industry in the Goto district of Nagasaki Prefecture, where new coral beds of exceptionally high productivity were recently discovered. He also has charge of the instruction of the apprentices, now about 20 in number, in the

carving of coral. After the Goto district, the Provinces of Tosa, Satsuma, and Miyazaki follow in order of importance as centers of the coral industry.

The coral beds are worked by divers in the employ of a master diver who receives the take as it comes in, grades it, and when a sufficient amount has been obtained, asks for bids on the lots of each grade. Representatives of the leading exporting and wholesale firms are always at hand during the season the best coral is taken, to inspect the take and proffer bids. The total annual take is about 65,000 pounds, valued at \$700,000.

The color of the coral has a great deal to do with the value placed upon it. The most expensive is "boké," a pale quince color. Single beads of this color, suitable for manufacture into ornamental hair-pins, bring from \$10 to \$50 each. The next color in value is pink, followed by white, light red, and dark red.

SWEDISH CITY PLANS TAR SURFACING FOR STREETS.

[Consul B. M. Rasmussen, Goteborg, Nov. 15.]

In Goteborg's budget for 1916 is a provisional allowance of 40,000 crowns (\$10,700) to the Street and Road Department for the purpose of treating certain streets and promenades with coal tar. Attached to the budget is a memorandum from the superintendent of streets and road work, containing the following statement:

Streets and passageways where traffic is light and where paving and other expensive surfacing can not be taken into consideration when coated with coal tar are less dusty, more easily kept clean, and the cost of maintenance is lower. In 1914 a sidewalk on Kungshöjdsagatan was tarred as an experiment, but as the tar obtained from the gas works was unsuited for the purpose the experiment was discontinued. Experiments were resumed in 1915 with more suitable tar, and apparently with satisfactory results.

Asphalt is Considered Unsuitable.

Tar surfacing of carriage ways or streets proper, macadamizing, rocmac surfacing, and tar macadamizing have been used. In addition some ordinary macadam streets have been surface coated or sprinkled with tar. At other places in Sweden, asphalt, a mixture of sand and asphalt, wooden blocks, concrete, or a mixture of asphalt and crushed stone have been employed. Asphalt is considered unsuitable here for several reasons. The mixture of sand and asphalt has not been sufficiently tested. Wooden blocks, requiring foundation or concrete backing, are expensive and unhygienic. On account of the loose ground here, concrete carriage drives can not be made durable without expensive reinforcement. Of the methods not tried, there remains then only the mixture of macadam, stone, and asphalt. This probably would be suitable for streets on which a dust-free and noiseless surface is desirable, and where the traffic is so heavy that surfacing with a mixture of tar and crushed stone is not sufficiently strong.

Treatment Proposed for Streets Having Heavy Traffic.

Experiments have been made in recent years with the preparations called rocmac, but they were discontinued and coal tar substituted.

The appropriations for the maintenance of streets have been inadequate as a rule, and the change from the old system to tar surfacing has been carried on to a limited extent only. The experiments with tar coating have been carried on so long, and with such good results, that the time is now favorable for surfacing streets where the traffic is heavy with asphalt and crushed stone, or coal tar and crushed stone, and for sprinkling the streets with coal tar. Furthermore, the treatment of gravel paths with tar has shown such good results that it ought to be continued on a larger scale.

MANY NEW AMERICAN AIDS TO NAVIGATION.

A net increase of 412 in the total number of aids to navigation maintained by the United States, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, is shown by the Commissioner of Lighthouses in his annual report to the Secretary of Commerce.

Several new works under special appropriations were completed during the year, as follows: Point Judith Breakwater lights, R. I.; Fort McHenry channel lights, Md.; Norfolk Harbor lights, Va.; Atchafalaya Entrance lights, La.; and Ashland Breakwater light and fog signal, Wis. Other construction work was in progress at the close of the fiscal year, the most important items being the new lighthouses for Cape St. Elias, Alaska, and Navassa Island, West Indies. While far apart in location, these stations present somewhat similar problems by reason of their unusual remoteness and inaccessibility, under widely different conditions. Good progress has been made on both. The light at Capt St. Elias went into commission in September, 1916, and it is expected that the light at Navassa will be ready in the spring of 1917.

Systematic Methods of Improvement.

Improvements in aids to navigation have been made during the year as follows: Flashing or occulting lights were installed in place of fixed lights at 49 stations; incandescent oil-vapor lights were substituted for oil-wick lamps at 19 stations; acetylene or oil-gas lights were substituted for oil lights at 44 stations, including two light vessels. New lighthouses, with fog signals, were established at Rondout North Dike, Hudson River, N. Y., and Point au Fer Reef, Atchafalaya Entrance, La. It is believed that systematic methods of improvement and the use of modern apparatus in increasing the number and brilliancy of aids have been of value to the safety of commerce.

The United States Lighthouse Service maintains aids to navigation on all coasts under the jurisdiction of the United States, except the Philippine Islands and Panama, and also on the principal interior rivers. This service is charged with the maintenance of aids to navigation along 47,192 statute miles of coast line and river channel. On June 30, 1916, there were 5,791 persons employed in the service, including 123 in the technical force, 147 in the clerical force, and 5,521 employees connected with depots, lighthouses, and vessels. The total number of aids at the end of the year was 14,947. Of these 5,323 are lights of all classes and 584 are fog signals. The total number of aids in Alaska, comprising lights, fog signals, buoys, and daymarks, in commission at the close of the fiscal year was 388, including 147 lights.

Devices for automatically replacing burnt-out incandescent electric lamps have been developed and installed. Experiments were made to investigate the reliability of obtaining distances at sea by observing the elapsed time between radio and sound signals dispatched simultaneously. Semaphore signals were installed for the first time in the Lighthouse Service to assist in regulating vessel traffic in congested portions of the Detroit River, Mich.

Consult Needs of Maritime Interests of Country.

In accordance with the established custom of the service, effort has been continued to consult the needs of maritime interests and to

cooperate effectively with other branches of the Government in related work. Deck officers of lighthouse tenders assisted in examinations under the Steamboat-Inspection Service of applicants for certificates as lifeboat men required by the seaman's act, and advice was given as requested in connection with construction and repair of vessels belonging to other maritime services of the Department of Commerce.

During the year 45 tenders and 66 light vessels were in commission. The new tender *Rose* was completed and immediately placed on duty for service in the bays and sounds of Washington and Oregon. Two new light vessels were nearly completed at the close of the year—*No. 101*, off Cape Charles, entrance to Chesapeake Bay, Va., and *No. 102*, at Southwest Pass, entrance to Mississippi River, La. The following new vessels are also under construction: The first-class tender *Cedar*, for Alaska; the shallow-draft tender *Palmetto*, for service in the inside waters of the south Atlantic coast; and light vessel *No. 99*, for relief duty on the Great Lakes. Services in saving life and property were rendered and acts of heroism performed by employees of the Lighthouse Service on 161 occasions.

Recommendation is renewed for legislation authorizing the retirement of employees of the Lighthouse Service on account of age or disability incident to their work, which is the practice of the lighthouse services of many other countries. A bill providing for the retirement of aged persons in the Lighthouse Service was passed unanimously by the Senate in April, 1916, but has not yet been acted upon by the House of Representatives. Recommendation is also made for an increase of salary for lighthouse inspectors, who are considered underpaid in view of the important responsibilities borne by them.

The appropriations for the maintenance of the Lighthouse Service for the fiscal year 1916 are \$5,239,030, being \$75,000 in excess of those for the preceding fiscal year. In addition, there are special appropriations aggregating \$999,000, for various new works, including also two appropriations amounting to \$325,000, for repairs necessitated by hurricane damage on the Gulf of Mexico.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the superintendent of documents at Washington during the week ended December 9:

Specifications and Tolerances for Weights and Measures and Weighing and Measuring Devices (Standards Bureau Circular 61).—Requirements for linear, liquid, and dry measures, and for scales and weights recommended for adoption by the several States. Price, 10 cents.

Determination of the Degree of Uniformity of Bars for Magnetic Standards (Standards Bureau Scientific Papers 295).—Describes apparatus for obtaining the magnetic uniformity along the length of a straight bar with the results of observations and tests. Price, 10 cents.

Artificial Dyestuffs Used in the United States (Special Agents Series 121).—Report on dyestuffs employed in textile, paper, ink, fur, feather, paint, and other industries, with quantity and value of imports and domestic production during the fiscal year 1913-14. Price, 30 cents.

Survey of the Fishing Grounds on the Coasts of Washington and Oregon, 1915 (Fisheries Document 835).—Contains data obtained on cruise of steamer *Albatross* to determine location of new or unknown fishing banks, with charts of the coast from Cape Flattery to Coos Bay. Price, 15 cents.

DOLLAR EXCHANGE IN WESTERN GREECE.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Nov. 9.]

The following table is based upon the exchange quotations of the four leading banks of Patras for this day:

Moneys.	Buying rate.	Selling rate.	Par, gold value.
	<i>Drachmas.</i>	<i>Drachmas.</i>	<i>Drachmas.</i>
Dollar.....	5. 14	5. 16	5. 181
Pound sterling.....	24. 50	24. 55	25. 315
Franc.....	. 88	. 885	1. 009
Lira.....	. 78	. 80	1. 009

From this tabulation it will be seen that the dollar still holds leading place. One of the banks of this district, which estimates that it handles 60 to 75 per cent of the banking business done with the American market, states that 90 per cent of its foreign business this year has been transacted in dollars. This is significant when it is known that exports to the United States from the Patras district for the first 10 months of 1916 have amounted in value to \$1,500,000 and imports from America to perhaps \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000, and that up to a little over a year ago practically all Patras-American trade was done in pounds sterling or francs via London or Paris. Direct banking with America in dollars has therefore made very satisfactory progress so far as the trade of this district is concerned.

Of incidental interest in connection with exchange is the stability of the Greek drachma. In spite of the many troubles that have beset the country during the past two years, disturbing both its foreign and its domestic conditions, the drachma has not depreciated on exchange.

PUBLICATION WORK OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

The actual cost of all printing and binding for the Department of Commerce during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, was \$389,805, according to the annual report of the Chief of the Division of Publications to the Secretary. Compared with the cost for the preceding year, which was \$399,999, this is a decrease of more than \$10,000. However, there was an actual increase of \$6,806 for the department as at present constituted, because the amount for 1915 includes \$17,000 expended for the Bureau of Corporations, which is now in the Federal Trade Commission and not connected with the department.

For the publications of the department—that is, for the reports and pamphlets—there was expended \$309,652 during the fiscal year 1916, as compared with \$301,666 in the preceding year, an increase of less than 3 per cent. The number of different publications issued in 1916 was 1,945, an increase of over 87 per cent; the number of copies of publications printed was 7,124,035, an increase of over 89 per cent, while the number of pages was 61,702, an increase of less than 1 per cent. The average edition of the publications in 1916 was 3,662 copies, against 3,616 in 1915, and the average number of pages for the 1916 publications was 32, compared with 59 for those of 1915.

Free Distribution of Publications Curtailed.

The free distribution of the department's publications has been considerably curtailed, and as a consequence it has been possible to

reduce the editions and the cost of printing of many of them. Certain of the publications which appear at regular intervals are sold by the superintendent of documents on a subscription basis and the others are practically all sold at flat rates, though free distribution of small editions is also made by the department to certain well-defined classes. During the past fiscal year there were 89,747 copies of the department's publications distributed by the superintendent of documents through the medium of miscellaneous sales, compared with 43,370 in 1915; and 3,280,888 through subscriptions, against 1,348,741 in 1915. Receipts from miscellaneous sales increased from \$9,603 in 1915 to \$17,719 in 1916, and receipts from subscriptions increased from \$12,674 in 1915 to \$26,508 in 1916. Receipts from both sources were \$22,278 in 1915 and \$44,227 in 1916, an increase of \$21,949, or nearly 100 per cent. With reference to this particular part of the department's publication work, Secretary Redfield has the following to say:

The most significant feature of these figures has to do with the amount saved to the department in expenditures for printing. It is safe to say that were the department's publications distributed on a strictly free basis four publications would be given away where now only one is sold. One seldom buys what he does not want, while, on the other hand, modesty is rarely displayed in asking for something which may be had for nothing, even though the free article has no value and is utterly lacking in interest to the recipient. And as a result instead of more than \$44,000 coming back into the Treasury probably \$175,000 more printing money would have been required in 1916 for the department to meet the free demand and there would still be the costs of wrapping, mailing, transportation, and delivery for additional millions of pamphlets, a large proportion for possible immediate consignment to waste baskets.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	123 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	do	"Islington," Walkerford, A. M. H. County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby.....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2235 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

HIGHER RATES FROM CEYLON TO ENGLAND.

[Vice Consul John A. Nye, Colombo, Oct. 26.]

A circular which has been directed to Colombo shippers by the Colombo Homeward Conference, through its local secretary, contains the following announcement:

The steamer lines constituting the Colombo Homeward Conference hereby give notice that, on instructions received from the London secretaries, the rates of freight on all cargo to the United Kingdom, with, at present, the exception of tea, will be increased by 20s. (\$4.86), per scale ton, by all steamers arriving here on and after November 1, 1916, and until further notice. The question of the increased rate applying to tea is under consideration, and shippers will be notified in due course as to the decision. The rate of freight on coir fiber or plumbago stowage remains the same—6s. (\$1.46) per ton of 6 hundredweight delivered.

Position of Rough Cargo Declared More Desperate.

Concerning the rise in freights, the Ceylon Independent of October 21, 1916, has the following comment:

The position of rough cargo is growing more and more desperate, and freight is growing wonderfully scarce. The coconut oil and the copra markets have been badly hit for nearly 12 months, and the rest of the current year promises to be worse for them, as there is likely to be no tonnage at all. And in this very trying situation comes the news that the freights are to be 20s. (\$4.86) up next month, with no promise of finality in this upward tendency. Both in the case of copra and that of desiccated coconut the freight is already considerably over the market price of the products, and with the threat of a rise of a pound (\$4.86) a shipping ton these industries may as well be considered doomed. * * * The shortage of tonnage is said to be due to liners loading up at the Far Eastern ports where the rates are more favorable. We do not know how far this is really so, but local shippers hold large stocks of copra for Marseille, and the freights are already 160s. (\$38.93) for every 12 hundredweight. There are also very large offerings for Vladivostok of tea, plumbago, copra, and coconut oil, but the tonnage is hopelessly inadequate. * * * The present state of affairs is likely to continue for a good long while yet, and to grow in severity rather than otherwise.

LACE AND HOSIERY TRADE IN NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.

[Vice Consul Leroy Webber, Nottingham, England, Nov. 24.]

American buyers have placed very large orders during the past week for Calais Valenciennes, torchons, and filet effects, chiefly in the medium qualities. The recent increases in the price of cotton will in all probability make deliveries very difficult to obtain. The demand for flouncings, allover, and Barmen imitation goods has diminished. There are not many orders for fancy laces, with the exception of a few from South America.

Plain-net makers and finishers are at present busily engaged in filling the large order placed by the British Government for mosquito nets. Little business is being done by curtain manufacturers, owing to the uncertainty of the cotton market and the consequent difficulty in costing goods.

The steady demand for underwear has enabled the hosiery manufacturers to keep their machines steadily employed.

The local making-up houses have recently received plenty of orders for blouses and neckwear.

GUATEMALAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 27; supplement report published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 8, 1916.]

The sugar production of the Republic of Guatemala for the year 1916 will amount to 300,000 quintals of 101.4 pounds each. The sugar is worth \$4.50 United States gold per quintal in the Guatemala market, and the total value of this year's crop will therefore be \$1,350,000.

Next to coffee, sugar is the most important crop of Guatemala. While the cane flourishes in almost every region from the level of the sea to an altitude of 5,000 feet, the chief sugar districts are in the Provinces of Escuintla, Mazatenango, and Solola, all on the Pacific coast. The principal variety grown in the Republic, known as "Jamaiquina," was brought to this country from Jamaica. It grows luxuriantly, frequently reaching a height of 8 feet and a diameter of 2½ inches.

Another favorite variety which is planted extensively in the coast districts is known as "Cristalina." The cane is usually planted from August to October, but it can also be planted in the early spring with good results.

The area devoted to the cultivation of sugar this year is 76,352 acres. The average production is about 42 quintals per acre. As yet the production of sugar in the Republic is mainly in the hands of natives. There are some German and British owned estates, but very few plantations controlled by American capital.

Quality of Sugar Excellent—Industry Expanding.

In the Pacific coast region there are 20 sugar mills, each having an average crushing capacity of 12,000 quintals, or 600 tons, per day, and several smaller mills. The machinery used in the sugar mills is modern, and prior to the European war it was imported mainly from England and Germany. The grades of sugar manufactured are 86 to 89 brown sugar and from 96 to 99 white sugar. The quality of sugar produced is declared to be excellent and there is a large local demand for the product. The sugar exported is principally the raw product known in Guatemala as "moscabado" (muscovado). During 1915 Guatemala exported 109,188 quintals of sugar, valued at \$327,567. Of this amount 63,671 quintals were sent to the United States, 25,190 quintals to Honduras, and the remainder to Panama and other countries of Central America.

The Guatemalan sugar industry has experienced a steady growth and development, especially during the past few years, high prices having stimulated growers to augment their production by increasing their plantings and using improved methods and machinery. So far as is known no systematic attempt has been made to improve the varieties of cane grown, but it is understood that the Agricultural Department of the Government of Guatemala has formulated plans for experimental work with this object in view.

The current year has been one of exceptional prosperity with the sugar planters, and the indications are that the industry will continue to develop and expand.

WOOL-TRADE CONDITIONS IN BRADFORD.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Nov. 23.]

Uncertainty in regard to supplies of raw wool is at the present time the dominating factor in the Bradford market. Government control of the New Zealand wool clip was foreshadowed by the stoppage of the Christchurch sale and the embargo on wool exports from New Zealand. [A cablegram announcing the purchase of the entire New Zealand wool clip by the British Government appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 24, 1916.] The sales in London closed in a sensational manner, prices soaring to record prices, for in addition to the news from New Zealand the situation in regard to Australian wool is also greatly complicated. The wool most in demand is that which does not require to go through the lengthy and expensive process of carbonization to remove foreign matter, and it is for that reason that the export of Australian burry merino wool to the United States has recently been permitted [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 14, 1916].

Such wools as Welsh, Kerry, cheviots, and superlusters, which are obviously not suitable for military purposes, are now being disposed of to the trade, preference being given to those requiring them for the manufacture of goods for export. It seems evident that the New Zealand clip is preferred to the English clip for producing military cloths. There is a report current in Bradford that the embargo on the export of the English wool clip is about to be lifted, and that shippers are even now making preliminary arrangements to ship such wool to the United States.

Khaki Order May Affect Tweed Exports to United States.

The statement recently published in the London Times that an order for khaki, roughly estimated as "anything up to 10,000,000 yards," will shortly be placed by the War Office with woolen and worsted manufacturers in the West Riding of Yorkshire was not unexpected. The Dewsbury correspondent of the Yorkshire Observer writes:

There are indications that Government orders are to be spread over a wider area than formerly, and that mills which were engaged in manufacturing the lower grades of cloth may be required to produce khaki, in which case there will be a further disturbance of the woolen rag and shoddy trades. The recent census of machinery and labor should have placed the Government in a position to gauge the situation accurately. * * * At any rate, there should be no alarm caused by orders for anything in the region of 10,000,000 yards of cloth, for that quantity can be easily produced by the West Riding mills in a very reasonable period.

This occupation of the Heavy Woolen District mills in the manufacture of khaki will affect the exports of fancy woolen tweeds to the United States. For some time past large orders previously placed by American firms have been greatly delayed in execution, and it is evident that such delays will not only continue but may become more pronounced. Makers having so much of their machinery occupied by Government work are not in a good position to accept export orders.

The Mohair Industry.

The following statement regarding the mohair situation is taken from an article recently published in the Yorkshire Observer:

Before the war the bulk of the mohair dealt with in England was used in the manufacture of astrakhans, scillians, plushes, dress materials, linings, braids, and laces. The high price of wool led to a demand for mohair for blending purposes, and while the price of mohair remained on a comparatively low level the hair was freely used in conjunction with wool to an extent that had not been thought worth while when the respective values of wool and mohair were on a pre-war basis. Large quantities of mohair were sent to Leicester to be mixed with merino wool, and the results were entirely satisfactory. Moreover, it was found that alpaca inferiors could be blended with merinos in such a way as to produce results equal to those obtained from Arequipa fleece, and developments on these lines proceeded apace.

Attention is now being paid to various processes which deaden the peculiar and characteristic luster of the mohair. Cloths are now being produced which in appearance can not be distinguished from worsteds, even the characteristic nap of the latter being imitated in a remarkable manner. It is said that these cloths possess all the worsted's qualities for hard wear and thus partly replace the more expensive article made entirely from wool.

As a consequence the price of mohair has risen in sympathy with that of wool. All supplies from Turkey have ceased on account of the war. Previously the annual imports of Turkish mohair amounted to about 50,000 bags (200 pounds per bag). The Cape clip averages about 40,000 bales (550 pounds per bale), but the competition of American buyers, who have met with no restrictions of export on their purchase in that market, has caused the price to advance considerably. Cape firsts are now quoted in the Wool Record at 24 to 25 pence (48 to 50 cents) a pound, as compared with 13d. (26 cents) this time last year. It is generally believed that, as Turkey has been slaughtering its goats, at least five years will elapse after the declaration of peace before Turkish mohair can be expected to come to England in normal quantities. In the meantime there will be a splendid opportunity for the breeders in South Africa and elsewhere to develop their flocks and increase their trade.

Compulsory Insurance Against Unemployment.

The woolen and worsted trade recently protested against the proposed inclusion of that trade in the section of the National Insurance Act providing for compulsory insurance against unemployment, and as the result of the statements made to the Board of Trade by a deputation representing 200,000 workpeople and 20 employers' associations from Yorkshire, their exclusion was permitted upon the employers and employees agreeing to take full responsibility for those out of work in that industry after the war. The consensus of local opinion is that the question of unemployment is not likely to occur after the war, as stocks of goods throughout the world will then be depleted to such an extent that there is sure to be a good demand, for a year or two at any rate, in nearly all branches of the woolen and worsted industries. Moreover, these industries are unlike the shipbuilding, general building, or the iron and engineering trades, which are subject to violent fluctuations and which employ only men (mostly heads of families), whereas the great majority of those employed in the woolen and worsted industries (numbering over 200,000 workpeople) are women and children. Regularity of employment is not of the same importance to them as it is to men who are heads of families. There is said to be no seasonal unemployment in the textile industry; and where there is a dearth of employment a system of short time is usually resorted to until the good trade returns, in that way few people being thrown altogether out of work.

As illustrating the provision already made against unemployment by firms in this district, the Amalgamated Society of Dyers pays its members 8s. (\$1.95) per week out-of-work pay, and each month the society sends a return to the Bradford Dyers' Association of the total amount of unemployment payments to members. The

latter association then pays 8s. per week to each employee who is out of work, bringing the total weekly sum to 16s. (\$3.90) each. Other firms have similar plans, and in different sections of the industry schemes of this character are under consideration.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Pine lumber, No. 3882.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Mississippi River Commission, United States Engineer Office, Custom House, Memphis, Tenn., until January 2, 1917, for furnishing 771,000 feet, board measure, of yellow-pine lumber. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3883.—Sealed proposals will be received by the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 27, 1916, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon, (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, galvanized steel, spring steel, bucket links, rivets, bolts, tacks, poultry netting, pipe traps, electric cable and wire, steel conduit and fittings, electrical fittings, electric meters, electric fans, reflectors, slate slabs, insulating tape, spark plugs, fire extinguishers, tally registers, hawsing beetles, rubber boots, leather, glue, manganese dioxide, wrapping paper, blue-print paper, lumber, and ties. (Circular 1106.)

Scrap metal, etc., No. 3884.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Honolulu, Hawaii, for sale by the Lighthouse Service of condemned supplies, scrap metal, etc., and iron columns, ladder, etc., at Hilo, Hawaii. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office at 311 McCandless Building, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Veterinary supplies, No. 3885.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until December 21, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., oxalic acid, powdered aloes, powdered alum, adrenalin, antiseptine, bandages, drenching bottles, mercury, cannabis indica, cantharides, veterinary capsules, nitrate of silver, powdered willow charcoal, flexible collodion, etc. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Condemned material, No. 3886.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Philadelphia, Pa., for the sale of condemned material and supplies. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Subsistence supplies, No. 3887.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, War Department, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until December 20, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before January 12, 1917, canned sliced beef, canned pork sausage, and canned beef tongue. Specifications may be had on application to the above-named office.

Fence, walls, etc., No. 3888.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Washington, D. C., until December 27, 1916, for fence, walls, shelter, etc., at the United States Immigration Station, Baltimore, Md. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the above-named office or at the office of the Superintendent of Construction, Immigration Station, Baltimore, Md.

Post-office construction, No. 3889.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Washington, D. C., until January 19, 1917, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Charlotte, Mich. Drawings and specifications may be had on application to the above-named office or to the custodian of the site at Charlotte, Mich.

Creosoted piles, No. 3890.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 46 creosoted round piles and 27,900 feet, board measure, of long-leaf yellow pine creosoted lumber. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Refrigerating machine, No. 3891.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 11, 1917, for a new refrigerating machine in the post office at Augusta, Ga., in accordance with specifications which may be had on application to the above-named office or to the office of the custodian of the site, Augusta, Ga.

OPENING OF SMELT-FISHING SEASON IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Dec. 1.]

The open season for smelt fishing in the Province of New Brunswick begins to-day. Fishermen along the shores of the Northumberland Strait and the rivers tributary thereto are preparing for a period of great activity as prospects at present indicate an abundance of the fish. Shippers anticipate being able to buy from the fishermen at from 6 to 8 cents per pound for the catch.

Consular invoices certified at the Moncton consulate during the calendar year 1915 showed shipments of smelts to the United States totaling 880,176 pounds, valued at \$56,395, or a little over 12 cents per pound average selling price.

NEW INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL IN IQUITOS.

The Peruvian Congress has passed a law providing for an industrial school in the city of Iquitos. The work of this school will be in two distinct sections—arts and sciences, and agriculture. The instruction in both sections will be practical as well as theoretical, and will be especially adapted to the peculiar necessities of the mountain region. Scholarships will be granted to 15 students from the Departments of Loreto and San Martin, according to the law in El Peruano of November 12. Congress creates new export taxes on rubber from Iquitos as well as shipping taxes from that port to supply the funds required for the new school.

Shipments of Iron Ore Through Sault Ste. Marie Canals.

The amount of iron ore passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canals for the eight months ended November, 1915 and 1916, was incorrectly stated in COMMERCE REPORTS for December 11. The shipments eastbound should have been as follows: United States canal, 41,092,795 short tons for 1915 and 50,866,922 tons for 1916; Canadian canal, 4,040,494 tons for 1915 and 11,316,851 tons for 1916; making a total of 45,133,289 tons for the 1915 period and 62,183,773 tons for the 1916 period.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agricultural implements-----	23253	Kerosene-----	23251
Automobiles-----	23252	Lumber-----	23249
Butter-----	23251, 23255	Matches-----	23251
Candles-----	23254	Meat-----	23251
Canned goods-----	23254	Milk, condensed-----	23251
Caustic soda-----	23254	Novelties-----	23254
Cheese-----	23251, 23255	Pharmaceutical products-----	23253
Chemical products-----	23253	Pork products-----	23254
Cotton goods-----	23256	Rice-----	23254
Cottonseed oil-----	23251	Ship chandlers' supplies-----	23259
Drugs-----	23253	Shoes-----	23251
Eggs-----	23255	Soap-----	23254
Feedstuffs-----	23254	Soda ash-----	23254
Firebrick-----	23257	Starch-----	23254
Flour-----	23251	Vegetables-----	23254

23249.†—A man in Venezuela desires to be placed in communication with American exporters of Southern pine and Douglas fir. It is desired to import only the best quality of yellow pine.

23250.*—A man in Spain is in the market for ship chandlers' supplies. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made upon receipt of merchandise. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23251.†—A man in the West Indies would like to represent American manufacturers and exporters of flour, condensed milk, cheese, butter, meat, kerosene, cottonseed oil, safety matches, and shoes.

23252.†—A firm in Egypt wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of low-priced automobiles for pleasure purposes. References.

23253.†—A man in Spain wishes to obtain the agency for the sale of drugs, chemical, and pharmaceutical products, and agricultural implements.

23254.*—A firm in Cuba desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of grains, beans, pork products, canned goods, potatoes, onions, rice, starch, hay, and corn, candles, caustic soda, soda ash, and soap. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Cuban port or f. o. b. American port. Cash will be paid in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23255.*—A man in Newfoundland would like to represent, on a commission basis, American exporters of eggs, cheese, and butter. Quotations should be made c. i. f. port of destination. Cash will be paid against documents in Newfoundland. Eggs should be packed in strong export cases, 30 dozen per case, with fillers of cardboard and sawdust. Cheeses weighing 10 pounds should be packed four to the box; 20 pounds, five or six to the box; 35 pounds, two to the box; and 80 pounds, one to the box. All must be colored. Butter in 1-pound prints and 2-pound slabs should be packed in boxes containing 50 pounds; solid butter to be packed in tubs holding 28 and 50 pounds. Prints and slabs must be labeled. References.

23256.*—A firm in Brazil desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of such goods as are usually handled by mail-order houses. All goods should be sent by parcels post. Sixty days' credit on all shipments is desired, although the firm is willing to make a deposit with a New York bank to the order of the exporter from whom purchases are made. Catalogues and samples of shirtings and tweeds, etc., are desired. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23257.*—A firm in Spain is in the market for magnesite firebrick. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. port of destination. Cash will be paid upon receipt of goods. Correspondence in Spanish or French. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 293 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 14 1916

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BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITION ON COCAINE AND OPIUM.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 12.]

The importation is prohibited, except under license, of cocaine and opium. Cocaine includes all preparations, salts, derivatives, or admixtures containing one-tenth of 1 per cent or more of cocaine and any solid or liquid extract of coca containing one-tenth of 1 per cent or more of the drug. Opium includes any solid or semisolid mixture containing opium.

PHILIPPINE HEMP INSPECTED DURING NOVEMBER.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, is in receipt of a cablegram from the Governor General of the Philippine Islands dated December 12, advising that during the month of November Philippine Government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 89,436 bales abaca and 7,799 bales maguey, as follows: Abaca: A, 409; B, 805; C, 1,458; D, 2,253; E, 5,298; S1, 727; S2, 1,591; S3, 918; F, 10,845; G, 3,365; H, 2,092; I, 10,388; J, 14,130; K, 6,774; L, 14,202; M, 4,447; DL, 5,282; DM, 2,513; strings, etc., 1,939. Maguey: One, 674; two, 3,693; three, 2,829; D, 603.

GOLD OUTPUT IN RHODESIA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, South Africa, Nov. 3.]

Rhodesia's yield of gold for August, 1916, amounted to 80,909 ounces, valued at \$1,644,881, thus almost equaling the record month (April) of the current year. The output during that month was 80,557 ounces, valued at \$1,651,621. The yield for the first eight months of the current year totaled \$12,771,292, or an increase of \$519,499 over the corresponding period in 1915.

The number of gold producers for the month of August was 247, as compared with 214 for July.

BUREAU OF STANDARDS AN AID TO INDUSTRY.

Standardization is the keynote of the report made public to-day by Dr. Samuel Stratton, Director of the National Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce. In discussing the relation of the bureau's work to the public Dr. Stratton says: "The bureau occupies somewhat the same position with respect to the manufacturing interests of this country that the bureaus of the Department of Agriculture do to the agricultural interests. Many industries are just beginning to realize the importance of precise methods of measurement and scientific investigation, which in practically every case involve some kind of measurement."

The services of the bureau are in great demand, and many researches have been completed or are in progress on points fundamental to the industries. In this connection Dr. Stratton says: "It is upon quality as well as upon price that competition must finally depend, whether in domestic or foreign commerce. The use of exact methods and scientific results is the greatest factor in the improvement of quality, efficiency, or the development of new industries. The educational value of the bureau's work in this respect is almost entirely unknown to the general public, and yet the bureau receives hundreds of letters, as well as many personal visits from manufacturers, seeking information as to standards of measurement, how to use them, how to measure the properties of materials, or as to the fundamental, physical, and chemical principles involved; also, what is of even greater importance, how to initiate and carry out scientific investigations and tests on their own account in their particular fields of work."

Similar Organizations in Foreign Countries.

Referring to the action of foreign Governments in establishing institutions similar to the Bureau of Standards and the growing emphasis now being placed abroad upon scientific research, Dr. Stratton says: "The importance of maintaining scientific institutions having to do with standardization and the application of precise measurements to the industries has been recognized by all the leading countries of the world. Great Britain maintains the Standards Department of the Board of Trade, which is in charge of the standards and inspection service of the trade weights and measures; also the National Physical Laboratory, whose functions include matters pertaining to scientific and technical standards, physical constants, and to some extent the properties of materials. The Laboratoire d'Essais, of France, while not as extensive as the English institution, is charged with similar duties. Germany maintains three such institutions—the Normal-Eichungs Kommission, equipped with the buildings, personnel, and apparatus necessary in standardizing and controlling the weights and measures of trade; the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt, covering testing and investigations in connection with scientific and technical standards other than weights and measures; and the Prussian Government maintains the Materialprüfungsamt, a large institution devoted to the investigating and testing of structural, engineering, and other materials. It is generally recognized that these institutions have been exceedingly important factors in the industrial progress of these countries.

The bulk of the report is devoted to a description of the investigations completed and in progress in the scientific and technical divisions of the bureau.

Railroad Scales, Weights, and Measures.

In connection with the testing of railroad-track scales the report states: "The bureau has been cooperating in this work with the State and municipal weights and measures officials, with the weighmasters, manufacturers, railroads, private individuals, and other departments of the Federal Government, and steady progress is being made toward securing adequate standards in railroad-track scale testing. Tests were made in 28 States. In these States 325 scales have been tested, of which 201, or 61.8 per cent, failed to pass the tolerance in condition in which they were found. The tolerance used by the bureau is based on a maximum permissible error of 200 pounds in weighing a car of 100,000 pounds gross weight."

An important work of the year relates to tolerances and specifications for weights and measures. On this subject Dr. Stratton's report states: "Such uniformity as exists among the States at present is due to the issuance of these tolerances and specifications in this form, and a still greater measure of uniformity is confidently expected in the future. At the same time it has been demonstrated that perfect uniformity will never prevail under the present system of having each State and a number of cities independently issuing tolerances and specifications, since disagreements are bound to exist. The bureau is receiving letters from manufacturers asking relief from the conditions as they exist but is unable to help them materially at this time. The bureau believes that conditions will never be wholly satisfactory until the Government is given power by Federal legislation to issue tolerances and specifications which will be uniform and apply throughout the entire country. A great majority of the State officials are firmly committed to this idea and are hoping that action will be taken by Congress to place this power in the hands of a Government bureau, which will then be able to regulate the entire matter."

Research in Heat and Public Utilities.

The bureau's researches in heat included also important work upon the fire-resisting properties of materials, to furnish architects, construction engineers, builders, State and city building bureaus, insurance interests, and others with fundamental engineering data relating to the behavior and safety of various types of building materials and construction when exposed to different conditions met with fires. Fire tests will be made of structural steel columns and reinforced concrete columns. Equipment of unusual interest installed during the year is the panel-testing furnace, which will be utilized for testing the fire-resisting properties of building partitions and walls. In this connection a work of general interest is the investigation and formulation of data as to the building codes of the various States and cities.

The electrical testing included the inspection and testing of 1,250,000 electric lamps, a great variety of light standards, electrical instruments, standards, and materials. A matter of unusual interest has been the investigation and development of an instrument for

finding the direction of radio signals and using it for promotion of safety at sea.

An important development is the bureau's work on public utilities, particularly electric light, power, gas, street railway, and telephone service. The bureau's work on this subject includes research investigation of public relations questions, preparing standards for the utilities, and formulating methods of tests, inspection and safety rules, and finally the collation and distribution of information.

HORSESHOE NAILS NEEDED IN CANARY ISLANDS.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Nov. 10.]

Large quantities of horseshoe nails are needed at this time by Canary Island dealers, and it is increasingly difficult to obtain supplies from Great Britain, the only available source, which the quality has deteriorated. American producers have an excellent opportunity to enter this market.

Terms here are usually cash against shipping documents in a Canary port, with 3 per cent discount for cash f. o. b. New York. There is no tariff on nails of any class. Correspondence should be in the Spanish language.

It is advisable that quotations be given in pesetas when possible, with a safe allowance for fluctuations in exchange. Prices in the last six months have doubled, and at present for Nos. 5, 6, 8, 9 (the most used), are 10 pesetas (\$2.08) per 5 kilos (11.02 pounds). The forms preferred are made with a crown head and run as follows to the pound: No. 8, 62 nails to the pound; No. 7, 68 nails; No. 6, 93 nails; No. 5, 110 nails.

Many Animals on Great Fruit Plantations.

The official statistics of horseshoes required by the Canary Islands annually are not available, as this class of goods is lumped in with packing-shook nails and other small hardware. Considerable quantities are undoubtedly required, as the great fruit plantations employ many mules, donkeys, and horses. The unimproved condition of the roadways, with the exception of a few first-class thoroughfares, works havoc with both horseshoes and horseshoe nails.

[Samples of horseshoe nails of the numbered types used in the Canary Islands may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Lists of hardware dealers in the islands may also be obtained from these offices or from the cooperative offices of the bureau. Refer to file No. 82623.]

CANNERS FIND LARGE DEMAND FOR GRAYFISH.

The following statement relative to grayfish has just been received by the United States Bureau of Fisheries from a large canning company in Massachusetts:

We think your campaign is very fine, and will prove very effective. The publicity grayfish is getting is also very remarkable. We are receiving clippings from all over the country. We have sold all the grayfish we have packed and have orders far in excess of the stock. We are advising all the parties whose orders we will not be able to fill at present that we can give them no goods until next spring.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN TOGOLAND AND THE KAMERUN.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, French West Africa, Nov. 6.]

Since August, 1914, the Government of Togoland, German West Africa, has been administered by the British and French, the colony having been divided into two zones. The British sphere of influence is recovering slowly in the matter of trade. The German firms are being replaced by British firms, and the quantities of palm kernels, palm oil, and other products being shipped from Lome foretell a gradual development of trade. It is reported that a number of small stores have been opened at Lome.

It is claimed that the railway is making every effort along the line of developing the trade of the colony. There will be a large demand for railway rolling stock after the war is over.

Importance of Lome as a Distributing Center.

Owing to the large pier extending out over the surf, Lome will become in future the distributing center for all parts of the colony. Here will be located the principal merchants, and it is quite possible another railway will be constructed leading from this port back into the rich interior. The principal West African mail steamers call now at Lome once a month, but with the development of trade the merchants and officials are already hoping for the weekly call of these steamers. Togoland had become a first-class town some years before the war, having grown from a very small trade station in 1900 to a town of 5,000 people in 1908.

Revival of Trade in the Kamerun.

Trade in the Kamerun has revived considerably since last February, when the British and French came into full possession of the colony. The colony has been divided, as in Togoland, into two "zones of influence," the French occupying the southwestern section and the British the northeastern. Duala is the seat of the French administration and the principal seaport and commercial center. Here all available houses have been secured by French and British merchants. It is from here that the railways constructed by the Germans run into the interior. These are already in fair operation, although most of the bridges along the lines were destroyed during the war there.

The Kamerun is rich in the palm products and hardwoods. Wild and cultivated rubber, ivory, and cocoa are also among the principal exports.

COSTA RICA RAILWAY TO USE OIL AS FUEL.

[Vice Consul Albert B. Pullen, Port Limon, Nov. 20.]

The Northern Railway Co., in the near future, will use oil as fuel on all its locomotives. It will be brought to Port Limon in tank steamers from the oil fields of Mexico, and will be furnished by an American corporation.

Two 55,000-barrel tanks have been constructed at Port Limon to be used for storage of the fuel. The oil is to be pumped from the steamers to these tanks through a 12-inch pipe line. Other tanks, ranging in size from 1,000 to 3,000 barrels, are in process of construction at Zent, Siquirres, Guacimo, Peralta, Juan Vinas, Cartago, and San Jose.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Nov. 6 and 13.]

The French Minister of Commerce has issued an ordinance providing for the appointment of committees intrusted with the distribution of sugar throughout France. Provision is made for a central committee and for committees in each department. The departmental committees consist of representatives of the municipalities, of local chambers of commerce, of the tax officials, of transportation companies, of wholesale and retail grocers, of sugar manufacturers and refiners, and of cooperative societies of consumers. The sugar commission that has been in existence since, August, 1916, will become a central committee to examine and adjust complaints against the local committees and differences between those committees.

The Minister of Commerce, in a circular of instructions to the local authorities advising them of the new system of Government regulation of the sugar trade, reviews the measures previously adopted to overcome the shortage of sugar, such as State purchases of foreign sugar, and the allotment of quantities by the syndicates (quasi-official manufacturers' associations) of industries using sugar. Under these measures 44,000 tons of white and brown sugar were distributed monthly during the last campaign. This year it is considered necessary to control the distribution not only of foreign sugar, but also of domestic and colonial sugar and to create an organization able to determine accurately the real needs of each department and each locality. The circular continues:

To estimate the household consumption of sugar, the committee shall take as a basis 750 grams per capita per month [about 1½ pounds]. Industrial requirements shall be computed by means of evidence furnished by interested parties concerning their productive capacity, the amounts of sugar consumed in preceding years, and their orders in hand.

The State has been constrained to import foreign sugar and to take the place of private enterprise unable to perform its normal functions because of the war; but it must be borne in mind that imports of sugar must be paid for in gold. Hence, the essential function of the departmental committees is to prevent waste and to devise means to restrict consumption to only necessary purposes.

The price of the sugar allotted to the various departments and localities under this ordinance is fixed at 119 francs per 100 kilos for raw white sugar and 114 francs for brown, taken at the warehouses, equivalent at the present rate of 5.80 francs per dollar to about 9½ cents and 9 cents a pound, respectively. These prices may be increased only (1) by the cost of transportation that may be necessary, together with any taxes or other expenditures that may have been incurred, and (2) by a profit of not more than 1 per cent of the cost of the merchandise.

AMERICAN FIRM OPENS BRANCH IN ECUADOR.

The Mercantile Oversea Corporation, which is a subsidiary of the Mercantile Bank of the Americas, of New York City, has recently opened a branch in Guayaquil for the purpose of doing a general trading business in Ecuador. The new branch will be glad to keep on file the catalogues and price lists of American manufacturers desiring to enter that market, and will furnish them with commercial information relating to the country.

ILLUSTRATION FARMS IN EASTERN CANADA.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Nov. 29.]

In the recently published report of the committee of lands of the Canadian Conservation Commission for the year ended March 31, 1916, details of the work done on the "illustration farms" are given. Eleven of these farms are in the maritime Provinces—4 in New Brunswick, 4 in Nova Scotia, and 3 in Prince Edward Island.

The selection of these farms and the work attempted on them was a development of the agricultural survey conducted by the Commission of Conservation in 1911-12. Primarily the survey was undertaken to discover existing conditions as to: (1) The fertility of cultivated farm lands and its maintenance, increase, or decrease; (2) the prevalence of weeds; (3) the other hindrances to profitable and successful farming; and (4) the methods and systems in use for carrying on farming practice effectively and satisfactorily.

Many Striking Instances of Good Farming.

In the maritime Provinces, Quebec, and Ontario 885 farms were surveyed, taken in groups of 30 contiguous tracts, and each group was chosen to represent a district of the Province in which it was situated. A schedule was drawn up on which to record the information obtained by the visiting collector. The information thus sought and obtained uncovered many facts in regard to the systematic rotation of crops, the selection of seed grain, the sowing of clover and grasses, the care and use of manure, the prevalence of weeds, insects, and diseases, the distribution of labor somewhat equitably over the whole year, and many other minor points. As a result of the survey many striking instances of particularly good farming were brought to light. Some farms were superior to others, not so much because of better soil as because of better management. From among the best of such farms in each group a selection was made of one to become the "illustration farm" for the locality.

Crop Results Determined Selections.

The survey established the fact that on these farms some measure of care was used in the selection of seed grain and some system of rotation of crops was at least partially followed. On the farms so chosen more satisfactory results, on the whole, had been obtained in crops and in profits than on most of the other farms in the group.

The farmers themselves, conferring by groups with the commission's expert, chose the farms in their respective communities upon which to have illustrations of further improved methods.

INCREASED BUSINESS OF NORWEGIAN PRIVATE BANKS.

[Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison, Christiania, Nov. 14.]

The prevailing prosperity in Norway and the abundance of money are reflected in the large increase in business reported by the private banks. The Haugesund Privatbank, for example, at a recent meeting resolved to increase its capital from \$400,000 to \$1,350,000. In the first nine months of the present year the bank had a turnover of \$214,000,000 and a profit of \$214,000, as compared with \$72,400 and \$6,164, respectively, for the whole of 1915.

OFFICIAL FORECASTS OF INDIAN CROPS.

The October 27 issue of the Indian (Government) Trade Journal contains the official forecasts for the 1916-17 harvest of several of India's leading crops. The first forecast of the season for the output of indigo is based on reports received from six Provinces, which contain practically the whole area under indigo in British India. The total area sown is estimated at 625,900 acres, as against 258,100 acres estimated at this time last year, or an increase of 142 per cent, which is generally attributed to the high prices of indigo now current. Compared with the final 1915-16 figures (314,300 acres) the present estimate shows an advance of 99 per cent. The yield is placed at 75,200 hundredweight (of 112 pounds), as contrasted with the provisional estimate of 38,500 hundredweight at the corresponding date a year ago.

The Province of Bihar and Orissa is credited with 37.9 per cent of the total area under indigo this season, Madras with 33.4 per cent, the Punjab with 15.1 per cent, United Provinces 11.4 per cent, Bombay and Sind 1.7 per cent, and Bengal with 0.5 per cent.

First Groundnut and Rice Forecasts for New Season.

The first groundnut forecast for the 1916-17 season is based on reports received from the three Provinces of Madras, Bombay, and Burma, which comprise 99 per cent of the entire groundnut (peanut) area of British India. The total area sown in the present season in these Provinces is estimated at 2,109,000 acres, as against 1,742,000 acres estimated at this time last year, or an increase of 21 per cent. Of the area sown to groundnuts this year, 72.1 per cent is in Madras, 15.1 per cent in Bombay, and 11.7 per cent in Burma. The season has, on the whole, been favorable.

The reports on which the first rice forecast for 1916-17 is based relate to conditions up to October 1 and cover Provinces that contain 99 per cent of the total area under rice in British India. The acreage sown is reported to be 76,281,000, as against 74,781,000 acres (revised figure) last year, or an increase of 2 per cent. Bengal has 26.6 per cent of the total area under rice in British India, Bihar and Orissa 21.4 per cent, Madras 13.8 per cent, Burma 13.2 per cent, United Provinces 7.8 per cent, Central Provinces and Berar 6.3 per cent, Assam 6 per cent, and Bombay and Sind 3.8 per cent.

Second Cotton Forecast.

The second cotton forecast is based on reports from all the cotton-growing Provinces. The area thus far reported amounts to 18,169,000 acres, as against 16,253,000 acres at the corresponding date last year, or an increase of 12 per cent. The increase is most noticeable in Ajmer-Merwara (94 per cent), the United Provinces (29 per cent), Bombay (28 per cent), Central India (12 per cent), Hyderabad and the Central Provinces and Berar (8 per cent each), and Burma (3 per cent). On the other hand, the Northwest Frontier Province shows a decrease of 51 per cent, Bengal one of 16 per cent, the Punjab 14 per cent, and Madras 4 per cent.

The present season's area is distributed as follows: Bombay and Baroda, 30.2 per cent; Central Provinces and Berar, 19.9 per cent; Madras, 10.3 per cent; Punjab, 7.3 per cent; United Provinces, 5.7

per cent; Sind, 1.3 per cent; Burma, 1 per cent; Bihar and Orissa, 0.4 per cent; Bengal, 0.3 per cent; Northwest Frontier Province, Assam, and Ajmer-Merwara, 0.2 per cent each; Hyderabad, 14.6 per cent; Central India, 6 per cent; Rajputana, 1.7 per cent; Mysore, 0.5 per cent.

Classified according to the recognized trade descriptions of Indian cotton, the 1916-17 acreage is: Oomras, 10,295,000; Dholleras, 1,522,000; Bengal-Sind, 2,732,000; Broach, 1,116,000; Coompta-Dharwars, 657,000; Westerns and Northerns, 1,069,000; Cocanadas, 213,000; Tinnevellys, 28,000; Salems (including Cambodias), 133,000; Comillas, Burmas, and other sorts, 404,000. The present condition of the crop is reported to be generally fair to good.

Second Sugar-Cane and Sesame Forecasts.

Provinces that contain 99 per cent of the area under sugar cane in British India report 2,354,000 acres under this crop this year, as against 2,508,000 acres reported at the corresponding date last year, a falling off of 6 per cent. The United Provinces (which contain 53.2 per cent of the area under cane in British India) are mainly responsible for the decrease; conditions at sowing time were unfavorable in those Provinces, owing to deficient winter rains and a low supply of water in canals. In the Rohilkhand, Gorakhpur, and Benares divisions of the United Provinces the crop has been damaged by excessive rainfall and floods. Elsewhere the present condition of the crop is generally reported to be from fair to good. The Punjab is credited with 15.3 per cent of the total cane area for 1916-17, Bihar and Orissa with 11 per cent, Bengal with 9 per cent, Assam with 1.5 per cent, Madras with 3.8 per cent, Bombay and Sind with 2.7 per cent, Northwest Frontier Province with 1.3 per cent, and the Central Provinces and Berar with 0.9 per cent.

The second forecast of the 1916-17 sesame crops is based on reports received from Provinces that contain, on an average, 78 per cent of the total area under this crop in British India. The returns in this forecast exclude estimates for the "mixed" crop of the United Provinces and for the late crop of Bengal. The total area so far reported for the present season is 3,152,000 acres, as against 3,169,000 acres at the corresponding date last year, or a decrease of 0.5 per cent. The United Provinces have 24.6 per cent of the total area under seasame, Central Provinces and Berar 16.9 per cent, Madras 16.3 per cent, Bombay 5.6 per cent, Bengal 5.3 per cent, Bihar and Orissa 4.2 per cent, Punjab 3 per cent, Sind 1.4 per cent, and Ajmer-Merwara 0.4 per cent. Heavy and continuous rain adversely affected the crop in some of the most important districts of the United Provinces and also in parts of the Central Provinces, Madras, Bihar, and the Bombay Presidency. The present condition of the crop is reported to be, on the whole, from fair to good.

Increased Norwegian Customs Receipts.

Consul General E. Haldeman Dennison reports from Christiania that the customs receipts for the whole of Norway for the 12 months ended October 31, 1916, amounted to \$17,446,800, as compared with \$15,356,400 for the same period in the previous 12 months and \$14,257,600 for the 12 months ended October 31, 1914.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND HARDWARE IN ITALY.

[Consul John H. Grout, Milan, Nov. 15.]

Italy is said to be suffering at present from a plow famine. Before the war there was a demand for about 300,000 each year. No American plows have been sold here, partly because our manufacturers have not taken the trouble to study the soil demands of Italy in order to supply the types that the country requires. The Continental manufacturer, however, studied the Italian's needs and made up for him just the article that he wanted. The American plow is a better article than that desired by the Italian farmer. The Continental advance agent came here, studied the conditions, etc., and carried back to his principal a sample of just what was wanted. It was then made and supplied.

Should Produce What the Market Demands.

There is an excellent opportunity here to-day for our manufacturers to get into this market, provided they are willing to cease their attempts to introduce a "better" plow and devote their time to making up just what this market knows and wants. After the war there ought to be a good market for horse-drawn or power-driven plows.

A few American seed drillers have been sold here, but as in the case of hand plows, the Continent has been Italy's principal source of supply, and for the reasons already given. Harvesters, binders, and mowers are almost all of American make, although a few of European make have been in use, especially in the case of mowers. On account of the cost of coal, a market is promised here for motor tractors driven by kerosene oil. Italy also presents an excellent market for hand tools for agricultural work.

Thrashing machines are in demand, although those sold here are chiefly German or English. The American machine does not seem to clean the grain well enough or grade it as other makes do. Our machines also break the straw. The Italians put the plant in sideways, instead of head first as in the case of American machines, and bind it afterwards, thus saving the straw for other purposes.

Opportunity for American Milking Machines.

There should be a good demand for American milking machines. Many Italian farms stock as many as 130 cows, requiring a force of eight men to milk them by hand. Milkers constitute the class of labor that it is most difficult to procure in Italy. They are independent and have the owners at their mercy. Milking machines when used reduce the number of men, and skilled attendants are not required, thus making the cost of labor much less and the owner freer. A machine that could be attended by one man would sell here. There is no market at present for cream separators.

Information received at the American consulate indicates that there is a large amount of business in Italy for American hardware of all kinds. Several lines of American goods have appeared here, and although costing more than Continental goods they are beginning to be appreciated, because they are of superior materials and last much longer.

One of the reasons why American goods of the lines mentioned have not hitherto found a more extensive market here is that too

many of our houses reaching out for foreign trade have relied upon correspondence and catalogues to produce results. The Italian is puzzled by questions of freights, shipments, etc., and finally gives up his idea of purchasing from the United States. Manufacturers from other countries constantly send their agents to see the buyers personally. Some establish branch offices.

Need Personal Representatives in Field.

Italians have a favorable idea of our goods but we do not assist them to gain a better understanding of their cost and character. Offices are needed in order that the Italian buyers may go to them and have everything explained besides being placed in closer touch with the manufacturer. Then they are willing to pay cash. Unless everything is explained to him, a buyer gets suspicious. He knows nothing about our railway freights to the seaboard, carting to the ship, lighterage, etc., costs of which often make his bill much larger than the catalogue represented. A representative here can tell him at once just what the cost will be in Italian lire when delivered, as well as explain the merits of the goods sold. The American Chamber of Commerce for Italy in Milan assists all it can to explain matters to prospective buyers, as well as to provide addresses of American houses, but its best falls far short of the results which might be obtained if houses sent personal representatives. There is much trade for us to get here, but it must be sought properly. Several American branch houses have been established during the past year and they are finding out the importance of such methods.

[A statement from Venice regarding the Italian market for agricultural implements was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 2, 1916.]

FRENCH ENCOURAGEMENT OF TOURIST TRAVEL.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Nov. 13.]

France is preparing actively to receive an unprecedented number of tourists at the close of the present war. Various new organizations are devoting themselves to the task of improving hotels and railway facilities, of advertising French health resorts, of bettering the innumerable agencies designed to attract foreign visitors and to satisfy their demands in such a manner that they may acquire the habit of visiting France in large numbers.

Perhaps the most interesting of the new offices is the Office National du Tourisme, enlarged and reorganized, which recently held its first meeting at the Ministry of Public Works. At this meeting were represented, under the direction of the Minister of Public Works, the Etats Generaux du Tourisme, the Touring Club of France, the Alpine Club, the Automobile Club, the General Automobile Society, local promoting organizations, and organizations of hotel owners and managers. A former minister of public works and of agriculture has been made president of the administrative council of the new organization, which proposes to set at work immediately upon the numerous tasks confronting it.

It is not unlikely that the Government of France will exercise supervision over the whole subject and may sanction the imposition of "cure" taxes and "sojourn," or visitor's taxes.

PORTUGAL TO ESTABLISH STEAMSHIP LINE TO BRAZIL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Portugal, Nov. 18.]

Eight steamships taken over from Germany by Portugal have been selected by the Government for a regular service between continental Portugal, the islands of Azores and Madeira, and the northern and southern ports of Brazil. This is in accordance with a national desire that the two Portuguese-speaking countries should have a steamship service under the flag of one of the republics. A translation of the decree, published November 17, establishing the basis for the proposed new line, is as follows:

In view of the fact that for some time there have been powerful reasons for the establishment of a regular steamship service between Portugal and the ports of southern and northern Brazil, in conjunction with those of other European countries which maintain greater commercial relations with the Portuguese and Brazilian markets; considering that the institution of such voyages has been recommended by different commissions and congresses and insistently requested by various commercial and industrial organizations of the continent, of the Republic, and also by the Portuguese colony in the Republic of the United States of Brazil:

Invited to Submit Definite Proposals.

The Government of the Portuguese Republic, through the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, after hearing the Council of Ministers, orders that those who have presented proposals or any others who may wish to do so should be invited to submit for the consideration of the Government, within the period of 20 days, counting from the date of publication of this order in the "Diário do Governo," definite proposals for the establishment of such a line of navigation in accordance with the following bases:

(a) Voyages for freight and passengers between Lisbon and the ports of Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and Santos, with regularity and as frequent as possible, but never less than one a month. Calls at Madeira and St. Vincent should be included in the itinerary, either on the outward or return voyages.

(b) Monthly sailing between Lisbon, Madeira, Para, and Manaus.

(c) Connection by subsidiary lines with steamers carrying freight between the ports of Brazil and those of Uruguay and Argentina and between the port of Lisbon and those of England and France. Connection with the ports of France and England may also be made by passenger steamers, on the return voyage from the south of Brazil without prejudice to the dispositions of paragraph a.

Rate of Minimum Charter Per Month.

(d) The minimum charter per month is 14s. 6d. per gross tonnage, and will be paid monthly and in advance, being also on the account of the company; the payment of all the expenses incurred in the operation and preservation of the vessels and the insurance, made in favor of the Government, at the rate of £20 per gross ton.

(e) Repairs will be made, whenever possible, in continental Portugal.

(f) The lease will be in force six months after the war.

(g) The vessels will be delivered to the most favorable bidder and ready to navigate, and the Government should receive them, after the expiration of the contract, in the same condition.

(h) The fulfillment of the provisions of paragraphs d, f, and g is independent of whether the vessel navigates or not, be it due to "force majeure" or to the incompetency of the crew.

(i) The company which may be organized must be Portuguese, within the terms of applicable legislation, and the transfer to any other company is not permitted, and it is to be formed with sufficient capital to guarantee its success.

Crews of Vessels to be Portuguese.

(j) The crews of the vessels will be Portuguese, within the terms of the navigation law and the port regulations.

(k) Importation of provisions and stores for use on board will be permitted in conformity with the present customs regulations.

(l) The rates for transportation of passengers and freight will be previously subjected to the approval of the Government and regulated by those of other companies, and fixed, as far as possible, in Portuguese currency, special protective tariffs being created for the intensive exportation of national products.

(m) Cargoes from Portugal to Brazil and from that country to Portugal will always have preference in transportation, and the company will see that the shipments of merchandise proceeding from the north of the country, loaded at Oporto or Leixoes, are treated in the same manner as those from the south, so far as refers to freights and regularity of transportation.

(n) The company will establish special reduced rates to facilitate the return of emigrants.

(o) The transportation of passengers and cargo of the State will have a reduction of 20 per cent on the schedule which is in force.

Provisions for Carrying Mail Pouches.

(p) The steamers will carry gratuitously the Portuguese mail pouches, being limited to 2,000 kilos (4,409.2 pounds) per vessel and per month, of packages, the rest paying according to the tariff for freight not specified.

(q) The vessels will be considered as passenger vessels for all effects.

(r) The State will have a commissary and administrator with the company, who will be paid by the company.

(s) The responsible bidder who offers and assures the greatest number of advantages will be preferred.

The vessels selected for the establishment of a Portuguese line of navigation to Brazil are the following: *S. Vicente, Lourenco Marques, Quelimane* (or other of similar type), *Barreiro, Esposende, Foz do Douro, Ovar, and Gaia.*

[A statement that importing and exporting firms at Rio de Janeiro had urged Portugal to establish a line of steamers between the two countries was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 28, 1916.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.....	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua.....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hansen, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.....	do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, A m h e r s t County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby.....	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kondell, Woolworth Build- ing, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

NEW ZEALAND CENSORSHIP OF CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 23.]

By a recent order in council relating to the censorship of cinematograph films in New Zealand, all films must be submitted to the censor at his office in Wellington, and application for approval must be made in a prescribed form. Respecting imported films the censor must be informed of (1) the title of the film, (2) the name of the manufacturer, (3) the length of the film, in feet, and (4) the date of importation. Appeal from a decision of the censor may be made to a board of appeals.

A photographic reproduction of the censor's certificate of approval will be attached to a film on payment of \$1.20. The fees for examination of films are \$1.20 for the first 1,000 feet and \$0.60 for every additional 500 feet or part thereof; and for appeals, \$2.45 for every 1,000 feet of film or part thereof, with a minimum of \$7.35 for any one film.

SHORTAGE OF CARDBOARD IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 12.]

The export of unmanufactured cardboard from Spain has increased during the past months to such an extent that manufacturers of boxes and of goods in which cardboard is used were unable to secure sufficient supplies. During the first nine months of 1916 2,640 tons of cardboard were exported compared with 133 tons and 341 tons during the corresponding periods of 1914 and 1915, respectively. At the same time the import of rags and other stock used in the manufacture of cardboard has decreased. In view of existing conditions the Spanish Government by a royal order, published November 10, prohibited until further notice the export of gray unmanufactured cardboard.

Decreased Crop Acreage in New Zealand.

Consul General Alfred A. Winslow reports from Auckland, New Zealand, under date of November 7, that according to the latest published Government estimate the area to be sown in wheat for the 1916-17 season will be about 218,877 acres against 335,423 acres last year, and the area to be sown in oats is estimated at about 548,526 acres against 640,227 acres last year.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3892.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers, for the supply of the following: Schedule 504, canned bacon, mincemeat, pickles, sauer kraut, and lard substitute; schedule 505, binnacles, compasses and azimuth instruments, and bont liquid compasses; schedule 506, butt hinges, chest locks, iron or steel nuts, and nickel steel; schedule 507, spar floor, and refrigerating system; schedule 508, 16-inch automatic tapping machine; schedule 509, steel castings and steel forgings; schedule 510, cotton flannel; schedule 511, alcohol, beeswax, blanc fixe, paint drier, mineral oil, whale oil, indian red, venetian red, paint remover, sal ammoniac, pulverized silica, and spirits of turpentine; schedule 512, rubber air hose, cotton fire hose, and wash deck hose; schedule 513, hydraulic leather, rigging leather, plate-glass mirrors, ship refrigerators, vitreous tile, window glass, india-rubber gloves, prophylaxis stands and outfits, and strip silver solder; schedule 514, domestic oak, white pine, and black walnut; schedule 515, blacksmiths' anvils, power-boat bells, ratchet bit braces, "C" clamps, pipe cutters, breast drills, hand drills, gouges, hammer, ax, etc., handles, butt hinges, match hooks, electricians' tool kits, chest, door, pad, drawer locks and latches, spare parts for oiler sets, metal-workers' soapstone pencils, block planes, side-cutting pliers, brass screws, spiral screw drivers, shears, snips, etc., block sheaves, iron or steel washers, engineers' wrenches and pipe, and platform scales; schedule 516, metallic flexible hose, packing leathers, galvanized steel conduit pipe, boiler tubes, brass tubing, flange gate valves, and flange hose valves; schedule 517, "B" flat baritones, "E" flat basses, "B" flat cornets, cymbals, bass drums, tenor drum, triangles, and slide trombones; schedule 518, bath bricks; schedule 519, concrete coarse sand and broken stone; schedule 520, glycerin; schedule 521, galvanized-steel buckets, galvanized welded steel pipe, aluminum voice tubing, and galvanized malleable-iron tubing; schedule 522, cotton canvas, cheesecloth, unbleached muslin, and cotton machine thread; schedule 523, muriatic acid, acetone, paint drier, yellow ochre, and bituminous solution; schedule 524, anvils, bits, etc., file brushes, 1-gallon paint cans, emery cloth, flat files, etc., bronze hinge butt hinges, pipe-wrench jaws, wrenches, etc., bronze rim locks, sand paper, brass cotter pins, brass screws, spikes, and screw wrenches; schedule 525, pipe fittings, composition angle and globe valves, composition gate valves, reducing pressure valves, and naval brass; schedule 526, interior fittings for w. t. switches, medium sheet rubber, copper sulphate, lamp sockets, lard oil, and water gauges; schedule 527, laundry soap; schedule 528, pine-tar oil, mercuric oxide, indian red, 50-gallon drums turpentine, and oxide metallic zinc; schedule 529, 24-inch bench drill, double emery grinder, and screw-cutting engine lathe; schedule 530, gravel and building sand; schedule 531, varnishes; schedule 532, cotton thread, fire extinguishers, and soda ash; schedule 533, cutlery, pans and pots, kitchen utensils, and tin, nickel, glass, and china ware; schedule 534, polishing paste, metal liquid polish, soap powder, laundry soap, toilet soap, and paper towels; schedule 535, bone buttons, metal buckles, cotton and enameled cloth, sewing cotton, checked nainsook, and white twills; schedule 536, alloy steel forgings, mushroom anchors, and nickel valves; schedule 537, soft sheet steel, rubber gaskets, and iron or steel buckets; schedule 538, iron steel wire nails; schedule 539, template paper; and schedule 540, safety matches.

Sale of wooden towers, No. 3893.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for sale of two old wooden towers, located in the Niagara River, opposite the Motorboat Club. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Post-office construction, No. 3894.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 22, 1917, for the construction, complete, of the post office at Richfield, Utah. Drawings and specifications may be had from the custodian of the site at Richfield, Utah, or from the Washington office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Automobiles.....	23259	Machinery, agricultural.....	23259
Building materials.....	23264	Machinery, automatic.....	23267
Camping outfits.....	23265	Machinery, dyeing.....	23261
Casings, sausage.....	23262	Machinery, knitting.....	23261
Chemical products.....	23258	Machinery, mercerizing.....	23261
Cotton piece goods.....	23266	Machinery, umbrella.....	23258
Coffee.....	23262	Mechanical supplies.....	23263
Cutlery.....	23258, 23260	Novelties, silver, copper, and tin.....	23266
Druggists' supplies.....	23260	Pharmaceutical products.....	23258
Glassware.....	23260	Plumbing supplies.....	23258
Hairdressers' supplies.....	23260	Rubber goods.....	23258
Hardware.....	23258, 23263, 23265	Stationary articles.....	23260
Household supplies.....	23258, 23260, 23265	Tools.....	23258, 23263
Jewelry.....	23258	Travelers' supplies.....	23265
Lighting fixtures.....	23265	Trucks, motor.....	23259
Machinery.....	23263	Yarn, cotton.....	23266

23258.†—A firm in Russia, with a branch office in the United States, desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of rubber goods, hardware, tools, plumbing supplies, cutlery, enameled kitchen utensils, pharmaceutical and chemical products, cheap jewelry, and machinery and supplies for manufacturing umbrellas. Reference.

23259.*—A man in Spain would like to be placed in touch with American exporters of agricultural machinery and small automobile trucks and touring cars. Payment will be made against shipping documents. References. Correspondence may be in English.

23260.†—A firm of general merchants in England wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of cutlery, household supplies, glassware, hairdressers' supplies, druggists' supplies, stationery supplies, enameled ware, razors, scissors, and pocketknives.

23261.*—A firm in Brazil is in the market for mercerizing and dyeing machinery, and machinery for making hosiery, knitted shirts, etc. Catalogues are also desired. Correspondence in Portuguese. References.

23262.*—A commission firm in Spain wishes to represent American exporters of coffee and sausage casings. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

23263.—The representative of an Argentine firm, who is at present in the United States, desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of mechanical supplies, machinery, tools, hardware, and various articles recently patented. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23264.*—A wholesale merchant in Switzerland desires to purchase or to represent American manufacturers and exporters of building materials. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against shipping documents in Switzerland. References.

23265.*—A man in Spain is in the market for camping outfits, travelers' supplies, kitchen utensils, household supplies, hardware, and lighting fixtures. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23266.*—A man in Persia wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of white cotton piece goods, cotton yarns, and articles of silver, copper, and tin. Samples of the piece goods and yarn desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 82427.)

23267.*—A manufacturer in Spain would like to communicate with American exporters of automatic machines for covering cylinders, for use in cotton spinning, with cloth and leather. Cash will be paid. Correspondence in Spanish.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 294

Washington, D. C., Friday, December 15

1916

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NEW EXPORT DUTIES IN MEXICO.

[Telegram from the special representative of American interests in Mexico, Dec. 12.]

A decree of the Carranza Government, issued December 11 and published December 12, states as follows: Beginning the 15th instant the decree of March 6, 1916, which amended article 1, section 4 of the revenue law of 1912-13, is altered in the following manner: Article 1, section 4: Export duties on bulls more than 1 year old, \$20 a head. Guayule gum and caucho, \$0.10 per kilo. Cattle exported by the owner and bearing his brand require no special permit for exportation; otherwise a permit is indispensable. Governors of States may not hinder exportation of cattle.

CHANGE IN MEXICAN TAXES ON METALS.

[Telegram from the special representative of American interests in Mexico at Queretaro, Dec. 11.]

Following decrees appeared Saturday: Export taxes on metals suspended from 10th instant until December 31, 1917, during which time following internal taxes assessed: Gold and silver bullion, 5 per cent of assay value; gold and silver ores, 7 per cent; copper bullion, 5 per cent; copper ore, 6 per cent; other metals, 3 per cent. The Treasury Department will fix value of metals monthly in accordance with circular mentioned below. If New York price of copper becomes less than 20 cents United States currency, taxes on copper will be reduced 5 per cent. Exemptions from taxes referred to in decree of May 1, 1916, will apply only in following cases: Copper ore with less than 5 per cent metal; lead ore with less than 15 per cent; zinc ore with less than 20 per cent.

A circular provides as follows for determination of values for revenue purposes by the Treasury Department on the basis of New York prices: Silver and copper, market price without deduction, net production; zinc, on 75 per cent assay result and value calculated on New York price after deducting cost of treatment and freight charges, taking as average freight charge from Saltillo, Mexico, to Tulsa, Okla.; value for other metals calculated on price at export ports. Treasury Department may base metal values, except copper and silver, on data of United States custom houses.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL SHIPMENTS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

The removal of the Australian embargo on shipments of burry wool to the United States was announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for November 14. The regulations prescribed for the management of wool sales, shipments, etc., have been summarized by the commercial attaché at Melbourne in a report on the subject dated November 13, which states that a committee of prominent members of the wool trade assists the Government in the conduct of the business. The following rules have been prescribed for the exports permitted since November 20:

The wool shall be consigned to the order of the Textile Alliance, approved by the British Government.

The Commonwealth Government shall determine from time to time the approximate apportionment to each State, with due regard to production, class, and character of "burry" wool. Equality of treatment shall be observed as far as possible between the States of the Commonwealth.

Sworn declarations shall be made by wool-selling brokers that only "burry" merino wools will be catalogued for sale to America.

Guaranteed fair average samples of "burry" merino wools shall be drawn from the various lots offered for sale and kept separate from other samples for reference purposes.

The Commonwealth shall appoint at each selling center wool experts approved by the Government, who are not connected with buying or selling agencies, to inspect all lots of "burry" merino wools offered for sale, and no lot shall be sold without a certificate from the official expert that it comes under the classification of "burry" wool.

The expenses of the official experts shall be borne by the selling brokers in proportion to their sales of "burry" wool.

In case a dispute arises between the selling broker and the official expert as to any lot of "burry" wool, the Commonwealth Government shall appoint an umpire, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

Statements of the numbers of bales sold for shipment to America shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department.

Any selling broker or buyer who departs from the conditions laid down shall not be permitted to make further sales or purchases under the arrangement.

An attaché stated that a decision in regard to cross-bred wool was expected within a short time, but as the purchase of the entire wool clip of Australia and New Zealand by the British Government has been announced (*British Board of Trade Journal*, Nov. 30), arrangements for exports to America will probably be changed.

[The British Government's purchase of the New Zealand wool clip was reported in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 24. This issue also contains resolutions adopted by an organization of woolgrowers in regard to the Australian-American trade.]

BRITISH CITY SAVES WASTE PAPER.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, Nov. 30.]

On account of the shortage of paper the saving of waste paper is now being carried on extensively and thoroughly in this city. At the Bradford Town Hall, previous to the war, tons of waste paper had annually to be disposed of and at a cost of approximately \$7.50 per ton; it is now being sold at prices ranging from \$15 to \$60 per ton according to the grade.

Owing to the large increase in the cost of paper and other printing materials, a number of weekly newspapers published in Yorkshire have increased the price of their publications from 1d. (2 cents) to 1½d. (3 cents), and in the case of one Bradford newspaper to 2d. (4 cents).

CHILEAN NITRATE STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER.

[Consul Thomas W. Voetter, Antofagasta, Nov. 24.]

During October 108 oficinas or reduction plants in Chile were producing nitrate of soda, and the amount made in this month was 6,350,562 Spanish quintals of 101.4 pounds each. Shipments for the same period were 5,242,151 quintals. There was an increase of 1,626,000 quintals in production over September, but a decrease in exportations of some 2,455,000 quintals. The industry as a whole has about reached the proportions existing before the war. Comparison with October output and exports in previous years follows:

October.	Production.	Exportation.
	Quintals.	Quintals.
1916.....	6,350,562	5,242,151
1915.....	4,872,884	3,711,550
1914.....	2,865,494	1,512,796
1913.....	5,059,774	6,849,747
1912.....	5,052,250	5,045,158

Little Change in Prices—Strike Settled.

There has been little change in prices of nitrate contracts on this coast. While the market has been firm, there has been no great eagerness to purchase or sell as a general thing. The premium for refined or 96 per cent nitrate is not so great as it has been recently, being at the end of October about 2d. (\$.04) per quintal for deliveries during the remainder of 1916, with a little greater difference for 1917 deliveries.

The quotations for ordinary or 95 per cent nitrate were about 8s. 11d. (\$2.17) for 1916 shipment, and for 1917 from 8s. 3½d. to 7s. 10d. (from \$2.02 to \$1.91), according as nitrate for early or late shipment in that year was desired. For refined nitrate, 96 per cent less 1 per cent, 9s. 1d. (\$2.21) was expected for 1916 deliveries, while 1917 shipments were quoted at 8s. 6d. to 8s. 2d. (\$2.07 to \$1.99) for deliveries during the earlier and later parts of the year, respectively. All these prices were for delivery free alongside vessel with export tax paid.

At the end of October a strike among the lightermen and stevedores at Iquique took place, and during the first part of November the movement extended to Calera Buena, Pisagua, and Junin. The shipment of nitrate was hindered thereby, but by the middle of November a settlement was reached and the men returned to work, a slightly increased scale of wages for handling nitrate being granted.

FISH LANDED IN NEW ENGLAND PORTS DURING NOVEMBER.

The fishing fleet landing fishery products at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during the month of November, 1916, included 200 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston 234 trips aggregating 6,892,701 pounds of fish, valued at \$294,241; at Gloucester, 369 trips aggregating 5,191,309 pounds, valued at \$145,615; and at Portland, 255 trips amounting to 966,275 pounds, valued at \$36,781. The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 858 trips, aggregating 13,050,285 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$476,637.

BIG MOTOR PLANT PROJECTED IN IRELAND.

[Consul Wesley Frost, Cork (Queenstown), Nov 24.]

The Trafford Engineering Co., of Trafford Park, Manchester, England, has taken an option on the city park of Cork, with a conditional guaranty that it will erect a manufacturing establishment to cost between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000. The company intends to manufacture worm-drive motor trucks on a very large scale, and it guarantees to employ at least 2,000 adults at a minimum wage of a shilling (24 cents) per hour.

Such an establishment would revolutionize the economic situation of Cork, and the project has created a profound impression. The option terminates on December 31, 1916.

The agreement provides that the Trafford Engineering Co. shall receive fee-simple and riparian right to a river frontage of at least 1,130 feet, probably with an additional 500 feet. There is already a depth of 28 feet of water alongside a portion of this frontage, which comprises virtually the entire quay line that can be made available in or near the city. Subsequent establishments, of course, might be located a little distance below the city on the River Lee.

To Close Public Highway and Furnish Substitute.

In addition, that portion of the city park is to be acquired which includes the Marina race course and all the park area as far eastward from the city as the Cork Boat Club. In order to utilize this tract it will be necessary to close a public highway, and the promoters will establish and maintain a substitute highway leading into the park from behind the race course. An enabling act from Parliament will be necessary for the closing of the highway and for the acquisition of fee-simple rights in the public land and commons involved. The usual procedure for procuring this parliamentary authorization would be a private bill, which could hardly be passed in less than two years, but it is understood that the British Government has been consulted and has shown a disposition so favorable that it will be safe to proceed immediately with the project.

The Corporation is to receive approximately \$50,000 for the rights that it surrenders, the substantial consideration in reality being the guaranties as to the size and nature of the industry to be established. The Trafford Engineering Co. estimates that the cost of the buildings and machinery will be close to \$2,000,000 and actually undertakes that not less than \$1,000,000 shall be expended on them within three years from the time of completion of the transfer.

Expect to Exceed Guaranty in Number of Workers.

While the actual guaranty as to the number of adult male workers to be employed provides for only 2,000, the promoters state they anticipate that double or treble that number of workmen will be utilized. They are negotiating for the purchase of a 260-acre tract known as the Lakelands property for the erection of a "garden city" for housing the workmen in model homes.

The expenditure of such relatively large sums should prove of almost inestimable benefit to the south of Ireland, and the operation here of a large and successful modern manufacturing enterprise should open up a new future for the Province of Munster. The emigration which might otherwise ensue upon the termination of the

war should in a large measure be obviated. Moreover, the general prosperity induced by the presence at Cork of a large manufacturing establishment is apt to benefit in innumerable ways the economic life of this region.

Shipments of Coal from South Wales.

It has been maintained frequently that the absence of bituminous coal, iron ore, and other mineral wealth permanently precludes Cork from becoming an industrial center and confines Munster to an agricultural rôle. The undertaking now projected indicates that the situation may not be as unfavorable for industrial development as has been supposed. The coal can be brought by water from South Wales almost, if not quite, as cheaply as the Scotch coal is taken by water to Belfast, and the situation as to steel and other metals is analogous.

A portion of the raw materials, and a still larger portion of the equipment, will be drawn from the United States, and the general traffic between this port and America, which has been so conspicuously deficient in the past, probably will be considerably stimulated. The standard of wages, and consequently the standard of living, will be revised upward. Some of the local industries undoubtedly will be stimulated as an indirect result. On the whole, it is probable that the enterprise will mark a new epoch in the industrial history of the south of Ireland.

CONSUMPTION AND SUPPLIES OF COTTON IN UNITED STATES.

Preliminary figures issued by the United States Bureau of the Census give the amount of cotton consumed in the United States during November, 1916, as 584,082 running bales (counting round as half bales), compared with 514,743 bales for the same month in 1915. The amount of cotton on hand in consuming establishments on November 30 was 2,191,799 bales, against 1,613,641 bales for the same date in 1915, and the amount in public storage and at compresses was 4,098,928 bales against 4,981,939 bales at the end of November, 1915. Linters not included above were 64,991 bales consumed during November, 1916, and 82,169 bales in 1915; 79,846 bales on hand in consuming establishments on November 30, 1916, and 99,089 bales in 1915; and 123,374 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1916, and 116,787 bales in 1915.

The imports of foreign cotton during November, 1916, were 13,189 bales (500-pound bales), against 21,168 bales in the same month in 1915, and the exports of domestic cotton and linters were 759,550 running bales, against 524,392 bales in November, 1915.

CONSULATE WANTS CATALOGUES AND TRADE JOURNALS.

Consul Edwin C. Kemp, of Tunis, Tunisia, requests that American exporters furnish him with catalogues, trade journals, and other export literature for the use of the consulate. He states that while Tunisia does not offer so large a market as do some other districts, there is a live interest in that field in both American goods and American methods, and that in order to furnish information to inquirers a certain amount of trade literature is indispensable.

AMERICAN CAPITAL IN GUATEMALA MARBLE QUARRIES.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 6.]

American capitalists who are developing two marble quarries near Zacapa, Guatemala, announce that they will probably be able to make their first shipment of marble about April 1, 1917. The company that they have organized is building a railway from the Guatemala-Puerto Barrios branch of the International Railways of Central America to the marble quarries. The line is $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and the grading is practically completed. The company is building a steel bridge across the Motagua River, the principal stream in Guatemala. With the completion of this bridge the operation of the road will be begun, probably early in the coming year.

Descriptions of the Two Deposits.

The marble exists in two deposits, under conditions inviting exploitation. The first deposit reaches an altitude of 3,000 and the stratum extends from three-fourths of a mile to 1 mile each way, with a thickness of 300 feet. The second deposit attains an altitude of 6,000 feet and the stratum is 1 mile wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, with a thickness of 85 feet. It lies about 3 miles beyond the first deposit.

The claim is made that the marble is 98 per cent pure. It is compact, and weighs 180 pounds to the cubic foot. It is susceptible of a high polish.

While the demand for statuary marble is limited, the company expects to find a good market for this product in the United States and South America, for building purposes. It has a large concession covering a wide region of Guatemala. The company has general offices in the United States and a branch office in Guatemala City.

[The name of the company mentioned and its address in the United States may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82002.]

PROPOSED NATIONALIZATION OF MINES IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Nov. 24.]

A bill proposing the nationalization of mines has just been presented to the French Chamber of Deputies. This measure provides that the exploitation of mines shall be exclusively reserved to the Government; that no further mining concessions shall be granted; and that concessions already granted but unexploited shall revert to the State.

The mining concessions that are in active operation must be transferred to State management within six months after the promulgation of the proposed law, the Government to pay for the buildings, the equipment, and the existing material at an inventoried price determined jointly by representatives of the Government and representatives of the mine owners. Payment will be made in credit instruments to be amortized as rapidly as possible by the net yield of the mines thus brought under Government management.

The law further provides for the appointment of a commission to settle all disputes and controversies growing out of the scheme of purchase.

SINGAPORE EXPORT TRADE.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, Straits Settlements.]

The table that follows gives the exports from Singapore of the principal products for the first nine months of the years 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, showing comparative quantities to the United States, Great Britain, and the Continent of Europe as compiled by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce:

Articles and destinations.	January-September—				Articles and destinations.	January-September—			
	1913	1914	1915	1916		1913	1914	1915	1916
Coffee:	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	Pepper, white:	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
United States.....	52	30	.....	.....	United States.....	856	705	1,192	870
Great Britain.....	.....	.....	225	15	Great Britain.....	591	953	1,263	3,046
Continent.....	143	118	126	6	Continent.....	1,147	558	120	95
Copra:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pepper, black:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	51	.....	.....	.....	United States.....	1,155	1,058	1,014	1,447
Great Britain.....	1,907	4,860	4,684	19,276	Great Britain.....	222	517	1,282	2,354
Continent.....	47,679	54,008	30,067	15,144	Continent.....	3,832	2,606	1,728	1,378
Gambier:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pineapples:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	4,125	3,379	2,613	3,271	United States.....	3,648	4,887	1,090	348
Great Britain.....	2,053	2,932	6,710	4,622	Great Britain.....	28,135	25,257	31,507	3,217
Continent.....	4,167	5,496	1,946	710	Continent.....	3,915	2,478	339	609
Gambier, cube:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Rubber, Borneo:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	829	1,132	401	188	United States.....	80	74	32	17
Great Britain.....	210	574	902	324	Great Britain.....	30	12	.....	.....
Continent.....	617	688	90	61	Continent.....	42	3	.....	57
Gum benzoin:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Rubber, Para:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	5	3	10	54	United States.....	1,914	3,801	13,420	26,913
Great Britain.....	55	30	68	18	Great Britain.....	6,254	7,616	10,546	10,273
Continent.....	214	193	65	133	Continent.....	85	839	1,604	3,900
Gum copal:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Rattans:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	3,765	2,971	3,424	3,485	United States.....	2,921	2,125	5,687	7,469
Great Britain.....	1,628	1,021	846	1,034	Great Britain.....	1,341	1,253	5,797	3,245
Continent.....	937	600	115	187	Continent.....	8,854	6,530	1,725	247
Gum damar:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sago, pearl:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	576	562	1,853	2,290	United States.....	64	120	87	59
Great Britain.....	164	258	498	908	Great Britain.....	1,070	993	1,330	1,749
Continent.....	573	401	234	49	Continent.....	762	437	30	25
Gutta-percha:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sago flour:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	6,685	4,478	5,839	6,504	United States.....	3,371	2,130	2,727	2,354
Great Britain.....	419	374	471	664	Great Britain.....	18,297	17,102	25,028	27,877
Continent.....	376	376	159	54	Continent.....	12,762	10,714	11,290	4,402
Gutta-percha:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Taploca, flake:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	509	795	866	1,054	United States.....	107	159	663	60
Great Britain.....	2,065	700	1,237	1,247	Great Britain.....	370	662	1,989	3,108
Continent.....	609	694	30	25	Continent.....	1,654	1,549	1,027	1,133
Hides:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Taploca, pearl:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	119	59	8	52	United States.....	488	538	379	522
Great Britain.....	1,237	1,250	1,937	2,199	Great Britain.....	1,572	2,366	2,209	1,524
Continent.....	330	327	278	67	Continent.....	291	291	64	44
Nutmegs:	.....	.....	.....	.....	Tin:	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States.....	203	182	189	480	United States.....	10,464	8,512	16,351	12,967
Great Britain.....	5	24	48	10	Great Britain.....	9,261	8,361	6,246	5,979
Continent.....	16	76	8	2	Continent.....	4,422	4,706	6,012	5,240
Nuts, illipe:	.....	.....	.....	.....	
United States.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Great Britain.....	46	1,769	4,605	1,319					
Continent.....	316	8,546	5,097	1,268					

The sales to the Continent of Europe have decreased in practically all articles except Para rubber, while shipments to Great Britain have in the main increased. Exports of Para rubber have risen in all cases, Europe's purchases of 3,900 tons in the 1916 period being some 45 times greater than the 1913 figure. Great Britain's growing from 6,254 tons in 1913 to 10,273 tons in 1916, and those of the United States increasing from 1,914 tons to 26,913 tons, or some 1,300 per cent. The exports of rubber to the United States for the first nine months of 1916 are, it will be noted, nearly twice as great as the combined exports to Great Britain and the Continent of Europe.

SMALL TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR CHUNGKING.

[Consul Myrl S. Myers, Chungking, China, Oct. 25.]

The police headquarters at Chungking recently received instructions from the Co-Director of Military Affairs of Szechuen Province to establish a small telephone system to connect the various Government offices and police stations in this city. This system is being established to facilitate the transaction of official business and is not intended for the use of the public. Fifty telephones and their accessories have been ordered through a local firm from Shanghai and delivery is expected during November. The instruments are said to be British and to cost 120 taels (about \$91 United States currency), each. The service has been offered to the local consulates.

The regulations governing the installing of telephones prescribe that subscribers must deposit a cash bond of \$50 Mexican (about \$27 United States currency), which will be returned when the telephone is removed, and pay a monthly fee of \$6 Mexican. The shortest term for which a phone will be installed is six months. This system is under the management of the police headquarters of Chungking. It has been arranged between the police headquarters and the telegraph administration that in the event of a service for the use of the general public being established, this system will be purchased by that administration.

The installation and operation of telephone services is a Government enterprise and is reserved to the Ministry of Communications.

WIRE-DRAG WORK OF THE PAST SEASON.

Achievements of importance to navigation interests are recorded as a result of the wire-drag work of the past season by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Attention has been given to surveys of harbors and their approaches on both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts, and especially valuable work has been done in Alaska.

The two wire-drag parties engaged in surveys of Alaskan waters have completed their work for the season and have disbanded. Their outfits have been transferred to Seattle to be used for wire-drag surveys on the west coast during the winter. After the usual preliminary work these parties began field operations during the latter part of April and continued until about the middle of October. Both parties had a very satisfactory season. Continuing from the limits of the previous season's work, large additional areas have been examined and rendered safe for the numerous vessels navigating the waters of southeast Alaska. In addition to the wire-drag work, the parties have carried out an extensive scheme of triangulation and topography and have obtained valuable current and tidal observations.

The total area examined by one wire-drag party covers about 325 square miles, and in this area were found more than 70 changes from the charted depths, not a few of which constitute serious dangers to navigation. The other party dragged an area of about 250 square miles during the season, and about 115 changes from the charted depths were found. The extent to which navigation in this region

has been safeguarded by the discovery of these shoals can hardly be realized without a glance at the charts affected.

Work in New England and on Pacific Coast.

Because of the approach of winter the two parties engaged in wire-drag operations on the coast of New England have discontinued work for the season and have disbanded. The season has been very successful both in regard to areas completed and important dangers to navigation discovered. The main project was to complete the survey of the approaches to Boston Harbor, begun in 1915, and to carry the work along the coast from the north limit of the previous season's work to Cape Ann; also to connect with the southern limit of the previous season, near Plymouth, and to complete the area between this limit and the eastern entrance of the Cape Cod Canal. This project was carried out with the result that the dragged area along this part of the coast now extends unbroken from the canal to Cape Ann.

During the coming winter wire-drag work will be done by L. O. Colbert in San Francisco Bay and entrance, the party having arrived at San Francisco on November 13. Other work on the Pacific coast will include a wire-drag survey, including the hydrography in some places and chart revision where necessary of Richs Passage, Sinclair Inlet, Port Orchard, Agate Passage, and Port Madison.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 26	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	do.	"Islington," Walkerford, A m h e r s t County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, Felix Willoughby...	Tiflis, Russia.....	Dec. 15	C/o Messmore Kendell, Woolworth Building, New York City.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1101 Euclid Street N.W., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCE AFTER THE WAR.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, Oct. 26.]

The 19th annual congress of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of South Africa assembled in Cape Town September 12, 1916, for the purpose of reviewing commercial developments of the past three years and discussing items of importance not only to South Africa but to the British Empire at large. Representatives were present from the Cape Province, Natal, Transvaal, Basutoland, Rhodesia, and Portuguese Mozambique.

In his address, the president touched upon certain events resulting from the war which affected the entire Empire and indirectly prevented the holding of a congress in 1914 or 1915. He also referred to the Union's trade and the prosperity of the mining and agricultural industries.

Able to Procure Almost Everything.

He stated that although the imports into South Africa fell off considerably during 1914, on account of the curtailing of orders by many firms, and in numerous instances the canceling of indents already placed, the trade of this country had suffered to a very small extent since the outbreak of the war. At first considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining certain products from other countries, but this has now been overcome to a great extent, and merchants are able to procure almost everything that is needed or desired. So far as South African products are concerned, there are cases where the war has proved beneficial by producing higher prices for certain classes of goods.

The agricultural situation was declared to be very promising. Reports showed that a great advance had been made during recent years, that the farmers were adopting up-to-date methods with excellent results, and that a larger area of land than ever before was said to be under cultivation. Should normal seasons prevail, it is believed that South Africa will soon be in a position to produce many food supplies which are now being imported in great quantities, thus retaining in this country much of the capital that heretofore has been expended elsewhere for such necessities of life. This money could be utilized for development purposes, and especially for irrigation, which is greatly needed.

Closer Settlement and Land Development.

In urging closer settlement and the development of the agricultural assets of the country, reference was made to the agricultural work that is being carried on in the United States, England, Canada, and Australia. The importance of realizing the agricultural possibilities was thoroughly emphasized. It was stated that plenty of land was available in South Africa for closer settlement, and statistics were furnished to the congress showing what had been accomplished in other countries. Private enterprise had shown the people of the Union the excellent results that could be obtained in the way of developing the land when once such work was seriously undertaken.

To assist in promoting closer settlement, a resolution advocating the taxation of land within the Union and a general assessment of all the land was approved.

Mention was made of the need of extensive irrigation and planting of trees by the Government. Particularly is there need of replacing the timber now being utilized in a wholesale way for commercial requirements. Each year the mines of the Rand take such large quantities of timber that denudation of the forests of the country is rapidly taking place. The congress was of the opinion that the South African Government should do everything possible in the matter of replacing that which is used. It is believed that the municipalities also should be assisted by expert advice in the matter of tree planting.

Gold-Mining Industry in Sound Position.

In spite of the conditions experienced in the gold-bearing section of this country since the commencement of hostilities, the mining industry is undoubtedly in a sound position. A huge gold production is maintained. It was stated in the congress that the output in the Transvaal alone had averaged more than £3,000,000 (approximately \$15,000,000) per month, and although no figures are given in the export returns for 1914-15, the actual production in the Transvaal was: In 1914, 8,394,322 ounces, valued at \$173,523,885; in 1915, 9,093,902 ounces, valued at \$187,985,289.

The effects of the war have been particularly felt in the diamond industry, all of the mines being forced to discontinue operations. The diamond companies, however, put the employees on half pay.

As the demand for diamonds has lately increased and become fairly continuous, the mines have reopened, and it is probable that they will shortly be in full operation again.

For some time agitation in favor of the Union Government's making provisions for the exploitation of the East Rand gold-bearing areas has been under way. The congress further emphasized the need of developing these areas, as the prosperity of this country depends largely upon the mining industry. The life of the mines already in operation is said to be limited, and unless something is done to open up other areas there may be a dwindling of the population in the interior with a consequent lack of employment and falling off of trade. One member stated that the export of minerals had amounted for many years to roughly 80 per cent of the total South African exports.

Increases in Sea Freights Called Unreasonable.

Exception was taken to the extremely high ocean freight rates that have developed since the war started. While the congress admitted that there was justification for some rise in freights, nevertheless, the enormous increases of to-day could hardly be classed as reasonable. In the opinion of the congress the conference system was responsible. Government ownership of steamers was advocated as a measure to lower ocean rates, but the motion relating to such ownership did not come to a vote. In comparing the rates to South Africa with those to other countries it was stated that South Africa was relatively in a very favorable position.

Stress was particularly laid upon the rise in prices of all imported goods here as a result of the increased over-sea cost and higher transportation charges.

The president questioned the justice of so large an advance in cargo rates, as it was evident, he said, that British shipping companies were reaping large profits as a result.

Customs Tariff and Railway Rates.

A motion urging the Government to revise the present customs tariff with a view to lessening the duties upon the necessities of life at an early date was carried.

The railway rates within the Union furnished a topic for considerable discussion. While some members were of the opinion that a uniform scale should be adopted, to include all the railway lines controlled by the Union Government, it was pointed out that such a change would not be applicable at this time, as it was not advisable or practicable that the branch lines, where traffic is very light, should be charged with rates as low as on main lines with a large paying traffic.

Except for export purposes, the system in force of granting preferential railway rates on certain classes of goods was disapproved. An amendment to the motion provided that "special rates be substituted for the carriage of South African products and manufactures." One example to show the unfairness of the principle of preferential rates was cited. On furniture the rate from Cape Town to Kimberley, added to that from Kimberley to Bloemfontein, was less than from Cape Town direct to Bloemfontein, the difference being about \$2.50 per ton.

Another motion adopted urged that raw materials should be transported by the railways at a rate lower than the manufactured article which contained the raw product, and that, in order to develop inland industries of the Union, the rates on raw materials should be reduced.

Importers Warned of Probable Post-War Conditions.

Importers were warned that the termination of the war must bring some changes in business throughout this country, and that a setback in trade, perhaps only temporary, would undoubtedly take place after hostilities ceased. Many of the merchants would find themselves at a disadvantage when the setback occurred if they persisted in overstocking at war-time prices; for, according to the president, it must be remembered that millions of borrowed money had been put into circulation by the Union Government, but this would cease when the war terminated, and money would not then be so plentiful. Moreover, he drew attention to the time when the millions of workers throughout the world making munitions and war material must return to their original occupations, when goods of all classes would come down in price and the merchants carrying large stocks must suffer some loss.

On the other hand, it was stated that important mining developments, public works, and buildings were being held over until a more favorable opportunity when machinery and materials would cost far less than at present. If capital was forthcoming for such development and construction when most needed, the disadvantages of the stoppage of war expenditure would be somewhat offset. Should normal years prevail, every year would see this country in a better

position to meet regular requirements, which would tend to prevent undue hardships and sufferings common to many countries after the cessation of a severe war.

Resolution Points to Specific Steps to be Taken.

A resolution was presented regarding post-war conditions, and it was amended and immediately agreed to by the congress. The amended resolution is:

(a) That the customs tariff of the Union of South Africa be amended so as to provide for—

1. A substantial rebate in favor of the products and manufactures of the British Empire.

2. The principle of customs preference to our allies, provided they reciprocate.

3. Reciprocal tariff relations with other countries, in no case placing other countries on an equality with the British Empire or its allies.

4. A special tariff against the products and manufactures of the present enemy countries, on such a scale and for such a period as may be agreed upon at the conference between the Imperial and Dominion Governments.

(b) That differential charges against all enemy shipping be made at the South African ports in accordance with the resolutions of the Paris Conference.

(c) That no trading licenses be issued to enemy subjects or to agents of enemy firms, provided that there shall be reasonable safeguards in respect of existing licenses.

(d) That, subject to any agreement which may be made between Great Britain and her allies, no foreign patents shall be allowed to be held in this country unless they are worked here, or unless the articles so patented are made in the British Empire.

(e) That enemy subjects holding certificates of British naturalization shall be required, within a reasonable period after the conclusion of peace, to produce papers of denaturalization from the country of their origin or shall satisfy a competent authority of their inability to obtain them.

Oversea Trade Representation.

The congress expressed the belief that numerous trade opportunities for South African products would arise in foreign countries after the termination of hostilities. To make known and promote the sale of such products as this country has to offer, it was voted: "That this congress urges upon the Government the desirability of appointing trade commissioners, in order to take full advantage of the enormous commercial possibilities after the war in the way of fostering and expanding our markets."

Public Bodies and Empire Goods.

Another resolution placed before the congress was one embodying the idea that in order to encourage the establishment of new industries in the British Empire, and to assist in the expansion of industries now existing, the Governments of the Empire should be urged to make it obligatory on all Government departments, municipalities, railways, dock and harbor boards, gas, water, and electric-light corporations, and all such bodies spending public moneys, or enjoying charters from public authorities, to purchase goods made in the Empire and to place all contracts with British firms, except in special cases when permission must be obtained from the proper authorities. After a discussion of the question, with comments upon the stand neutrals might be inclined to take, the motion was agreed to.

Among other recommendations made to the Union Government by the congress was one embodied in a resolution in favor of the adoption in this country of a plan for daylight saving. The scheme

was based upon that employed in England. Should it be adopted by the Government the people of this district would suffer no disadvantages except for a few days at the beginning of summer and a few days just before the clock is put back in readiness for winter.

Numerous minor subjects were brought before the congress, relating more particularly to topics of local interest rather than to matters of national importance. Johannesburg was selected as the place for the next annual meeting.

CONFERENCE OF LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTORS.

The Secretary of Commerce has authorized a conference of lighthouse inspectors of the coast and lake districts to be held in the office of the Commissioner of Lighthouses during the coming winter. This conference is entirely informal in character and is devoted to discussions of technical and administrative problems of the Lighthouse Service, such as systematic improvement of existing aids; cooperation with maritime interests and other Government services; publications, Notices to Mariners, light lists, buoy lists; complaints, how treated; suggestions, how dealt with; improvements in construction; new or improved devices; repairs and docking of vessels, etc.

Additional topics along the same general lines may be discussed. Maritime bodies, commercial bodies, shipmasters, or others interested in aids to navigation desiring to present suggestions for consideration are invited by the Secretary to submit them in writing, addressed to the Commissioner of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., at any time prior to January 2, 1917.

EXTENSION OF FRANCO-AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, France, Nov. 15.]

The Office National du Commerce Extérieur, an official French organization for the extension of France's foreign trade, with offices at No. 3 Rue Feydeau, Paris, is prepared to receive the offers of American firms desirous of importing French goods. If the American customer will send direct to the address given details regarding the goods required by him, the Office National du Commerce will bring each offer to the attention of French manufacturers in position to supply the demands. The American inquirer will be furnished with a full list of the names and addresses of French firms handling the lines in which he is interested, and the manufacturers will also be requested to communicate direct with the intending purchaser.

New Brunswick Has Growing Biscuit Industry.

In reporting the removal of the Marven Biscuit Co., of Moncton, New Brunswick, to new quarters, Consul E. Verne Richardson remarks: "The enlarged plant of the Marven Co. will, it is stated, have a producing capacity exceeded by only two similar establishments in all Canada. It is estimated that about 100 barrels of flour will be used daily, a carload of lard every 10 days, 1 to 1½ tons of sugar daily, and 400 gallons of molasses weekly."

EGG COLLECTIONS BY BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries has submitted to the Secretary of Commerce a report of the egg collections made during the present fiscal year up to December 1, 1916, compared with the collections for the corresponding period in the preceding fiscal year. The numbers by species are:

Species.	Dec. 1, 1915.	Dec. 1, 1916.	Species.	Dec. 1, 1915.	Dec. 1, 1916.
Chinook salmon.....	104,888,090	50,587,500	Blackspotted trout.....	3,406,000	6,867,000
Humpback salmon.....	32,321,000	38,678,000	Loch Loven trout.....	121,350	102,800
Blueback salmon.....	100,427,000	88,416,000	Whitefish.....	381,751,000	422,630,000
Chum salmon.....	23,726,500	16,680,000	Lake herring.....	65,560,000	76,050,000
Silver salmon.....	6,087,325	4,033,500	Shad.....	656,000	461,000
Atlantic salmon.....	1,963,400	3,739,180	Mackerel.....	2,225,000	2,660,000
Landlocked salmon.....	1,200,500	1,856,000	Butterfish.....	609,000	1,080,000
Lake trout.....	67,331,500	107,391,500	Lobster.....	6,848,000	1,271,000
Brook trout.....	7,729,250	7,199,750	Pollock.....	102,660,000	208,130,000
Rainbow trout.....	1,640,718	1,532,950		891,131,633	1,039,378,980

IMPENDING CRISIS IN ST. GALL EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall, Switzerland, Nov. 17.]

The St. Galler Tagblatt states, in regard to the present situation of the Swiss embroidery industry, that in spite of a very moderate business activity the lack of raw material becomes more pressing every day, and that it is more difficult than ever to keep the plants working and to fill the orders received. Most of the cloth used by the East Swiss embroidery industry is of English origin and an embargo on the exportation of English cloth in unembroidered condition has been in effect for some time. It is, however, hoped that the British authorities will soon permit cloth to be exported to Switzerland, as the S. S. S. (Société Suisse de Surveillance) and E. S. S. (Einfuhrgenossenschaft für die Schweizerische Stickereiindustrie) offer every required guaranty. If sufficient quantities are not received in the near future, the local industry will face a very severe crisis.

NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE.

The report by the United States Bureau of Lighthouses of new construction in connection with its service during the past month gives details of projects in Florida, the West Indies, Ohio, and Michigan.

A contract has been awarded for 17 pipe towers in the development of aids to navigation on St. Johns River, Fla. At Navassa Island light station, in the West Indies, the concrete in the foundation has been completed and the work of placing concrete in the first story of the tower is under way. At Lorain Harbor light and fog-signal station, Ohio, the lantern and metal work have been completed and concrete to the second-floor ceiling has been placed. A contract has been placed for buoys and illuminating apparatus at Fighting Island Channel, Mich. The structure for Fighting Island south light has been completed.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Automobiles.....	23270	Leather.....	23269, 23278
Brushes, folding.....	23275	Machinery, envelope.....	23276
Buttons.....	23269	Machinery, textile.....	23272
Buttonhooks.....	23269	Novelties.....	23269
Chemicals.....	23273	Crucibles, plumbago.....	23270
Drugs.....	23273	Post cards.....	23269
Flower, artificial.....	23269	Refrigerator parts.....	23268
Gloves.....	23269	Rubber goods.....	23269
Hosiery.....	23269, 23274	Tin boxes.....	23274
Imitation diamond ornaments.....	23269	Tubes, collapsible.....	23274
Jars for toilet preparations.....	23274		

23268.†—A manufacturer of ice boxes and refrigerators in Cuba desires to purchase fittings for same, such as hinges, handles, casters, inside fittings, metal binding for doors, etc. Catalogues and prices are desired.

23269.†—Supplementing Foreign Trade Opportunity No. 23082, a manufacturer's agent in Argentina writes that he desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of rubber goods, post cards, hosiery, gloves, kid leather, buttonhooks, buttons, artificial flowers, imitation diamond ornaments, and novelties.

23270.*—A firm in Spain wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23271.†—A man in Russia desires to communicate with American manufacturers of plumbago crucibles.

23272.†—A firm in Norway desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of textile machinery for weaving and spinning.

23273.*—A man in Spain is in the market for sulphuric acid, nitric acid, creolin, sulphuric ether, glycerin, benzoate of soda, sodium bromide, and castor oil. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23274.†—A firm in Canada would like to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of collapsible tubes, jars for toilet preparations, small tin boxes, brass bush caps, brass rings, and leather for razor strops. Cash will accompany order.

23275.*—A man in France desires to purchase folding brushes. A sample of the style of brush required may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to File No. 2028.) The article is desired in gun-metal or nickel-plated ware, with three words stamped in the oval space on the cover, and with four flags stamped on the bottom of the box. Two qualities are desired. Quotations are also desired on the brush and mechanism without the box. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. French port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23276.*—A firm in England wishes to be placed in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery for making envelopes. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York and c. i. f. Calcutta. Reference.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

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No. 295 Washington, D. C., Saturday, December 16 1916

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INCREASED PERUVIAN CUSTOMS REVENUES.

[Consul General William H. Handley, Callao-Lima, Nov. 22.]

The customs revenues at the eight maritime customhouses of Peru—Paita, Eten, Pacasmayo, Salaverry, Callao, Pisco, Mollendo, and Ilo—during September, 1916, amounted to \$500,037 in comparison with \$276,062 during the same period in 1915, an increase of \$223,975. These figures do not take into account the export tax on minerals and agricultural products collected at these ports.

"SUGAR CARDS" FOR PARIS.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, France, Nov. 20.]

The central sugar commission recently created by the French Government [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 14, 1916] has appointed a subcommittee to consider the advisability of issuing "sugar cards" to regulate the individual consumption of sugar in Paris. This subcommittee held its first meeting November 18 and decided in favor of "sugar cards" or some similar system for regulating and curtailing the consumption of sugar.

DRY DOCK FOR VANCOUVER, CANADA.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Dec. 8.]

Arrangements have been completed for the construction of a large floating dry dock at Vancouver. The structure will be a 16,000-ton, double-section dock, capable of handling a boat of 18,000 tons, which is the measure of maximum requirements on the Pacific to-day. The company is the Vancouver Dry Docks (Ltd.). Bonds to the amount of \$2,000,000 have been sold to a Cincinnati firm. A ship-repair and shipbuilding plant is a part of the plan decided upon. Contracts for construction and machinery are being let, and the company announces that it will have the dock in operation within a year. There will be subsidy aid from the Governments of both the Dominion of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, on the ground that the dock will be a commercial and naval asset.

Steamers sailing from Canadian ports on the Pacific at present are forced to dock for repairs at Hongkong, at Kobe, Japan, or in Australia.

WRIST WATCHES IN EAST AFRICA.

[Consul Henry P. Starrett, Mombasa, Oct. 26.]

There is a considerable demand throughout British East Africa and Uganda for wrist watches, nickel-plated and oxidized, having leather bands and holders. One firm states that it has sold more than 12 gross in one year. Owing to the large number of natives who are profitably employed throughout the territory, a taste for luxuries such as cheap watches and jewelry is being developed. The Indian trader, the most important factor in the trade of the country, has been keen to appreciate the situation and is planning to meet it with appropriate importations. The war has curtailed or cut off entirely former supplies, and in general it may be said that these traders, through their large importing houses in Mombasa, are very desirous of establishing connections with American manufacturers.

Prior to the war these goods were largely imported from England and Germany. The quotations of English houses at that time ranged from \$8 to \$9 per dozen, c. i. f. Mombasa. To-day's quotations from the same houses are \$12.50 to \$15 per dozen. The present wholesale price in this market is about \$18 per dozen; the retail price, \$2 each. Terms to local merchants granted by local European indent houses are 90 days sight draft. When purchases are made direct from European manufacturers the terms to reliable merchants are usually 7 days' sight draft, bill of lading attached.

The total importation of watches and clocks into British East Africa during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915 (the latest statistics available), amounted to 351 dozen, valued at \$6,215. The United Kingdom furnished 62 per cent of these imports, the United States 18 per cent, and Switzerland, France, and Germany the remainder. The customs duty on these goods is 10 per cent ad valorem, i. e., of the c. i. f. cost at Mombasa.

SWISS BUDGET FOR 1917.

[Consul General Francis B. Keene, Zurich, Nov. 20.]

The Swiss budget estimates for 1917 call for expenditures totaling \$41,696,100, against anticipated revenues of \$32,785,300, making the year's apparent deficit \$8,910,800. In the estimates for 1916 expenditures were placed at \$36,874,600 and receipts at \$29,706,600, the deficit being \$7,168,000. Contrasting the two years, estimated revenues for 1917 exceed those for 1916 by \$3,078,700, and expenditures are \$4,821,500 greater.

The additional revenues for 1917 consist chiefly of the proceeds derived from invested capital, of increased returns from military taxes, statistical fees levied on the traffic in merchandise with foreign countries, the net proceeds of the telegraph and telephone service, and the repayment by the National Bank from its net profits of the money advanced by the Confederation to the cantons in accordance with the Swiss banking laws.

The exceptionally high expenditures result for the greater part from the service of the loans, i. e., the consolidated and pending State debts, expenses for the training and general equipment of the troops, invalid and accident insurance, and increase of salaries of the Government officers, clerks, and workmen for the year 1917.

INSPECTION SYSTEM INCREASES BUTTER OUTPUT.

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 6.]

British Columbia has 27 creameries, 11 of which are cooperative. The Province covers a large territory, but the creameries are confined almost altogether to the coast districts, with 20 in the coast cities and towns. There are no separate cheese factories in the Province, so that this work is confined to the creameries.

Inspection is under the jurisdiction of the Dairy Division of the Provincial Live Stock Branch. Two inspectors, scientifically trained at Guelph for the management of commercial creameries, have been engaged by the department. All creameries are inspected at least once a year, and three inspections are made annually where possible.

As the cooperative creameries are aided by the Government they receive the most attention. One result of the inspection system is an annual increase of 20 per cent in butter production. The creamery premises are found to be uniformly in good sanitary condition.

Legislative Act Provides for Regulation.

An act passed at the last session of the Provincial Legislature for the regulation of creameries and dairies provides:

1. No creamery or dairy shall carry on business without a license under this act, and every creamery or dairy shall take out and from time to time renew and keep in full force and effect a license under this act.

2. No creamery or dairy shall permit any milk or cream to be tested save by an inspector licensed under this act.

3. Every creamery or dairy purchasing or dealing in any milk or cream shall deliver to the owner thereof, at such time and in such form as may be prescribed by regulation, a just and true account of the amount and value thereof, certified by an inspector licensed under this act.

PROFITABLE NINE MONTHS FOR BRAZILIAN RAILWAY.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 7.]

The Ceará Railway System (Rede de Viação Cearense), the property of the Republic of Brazil, was operated up to August, 1915, by a lessee, the South American Railway Construction Co. (Ltd.), under decree of May 16, 1911, which stipulated that certain extensions should be made by the lessee. On December 31, 1914, the Ceará system comprised the Baturité Railway, running from Fortaleza through Baturité, Miguel Calmon, and Igatu, southward nearly to the northern boundary of Pernambuco (267 miles), and the Sobral Railway from the northern port of Camocim southward through Ipú to the Piahy boundary (204 miles).

The required extensions not having been made, the contract was annulled by decree of August 25, 1915, and the work has since been carried on by the Federal Government, the lines being also operated by the Government. The following figures published by the Inspector of Railways show the results of operation for the nine months, January to September, 1916: Baturité Railway—receipts, \$349,276; expenses, \$215,735; balance, \$133,541. Sobral Railway—receipts, \$124,852; expenses, \$82,294; balance, \$42,558. Combining these data gives total receipts of \$474,128, expenses \$298,029, and a balance of \$176,099.

PROGRESS OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING.

Steel merchant vessels building or under contract to be built in private American shipyards on December 1, 1916, according to builders' returns to the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, numbered 400, of 1,428,003 gross tons. On December 1, 1915, builders' returns of construction or contracts for the construction of steel merchant vessels aggregated 202 vessels of 761,511 gross tons. The tonnage building or ordered on December 1, 1916, however, is less (17 vessels of 51,943 gross tons) than on November 1, 1916, the first break in the line of increases since the issue of these monthly returns began in February, 1916. During November American yards finished 22 vessels of 68,922 gross tons which had been carried in these statements, and made new contracts for 7 steel merchant vessels of 18,285 gross tons.

Distribution of Work.

The following table shows the distribution of this work among the several builders of steel vessels in the United States reporting merchant vessels under contract or under construction, and, separately, the number and gross tonnage of the ships building or under contract which the builders expect to launch during the current fiscal year (294 vessels of 904,231 gross tons), and those which will not be launched until some time in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918 (106 vessels of 523,772 gross tons). These dates of launching, of course, are subject to the usual allowances for delays.

Shipyards.	Merchant construction, Dec. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.	Num- ber.	Gross tons.
American Bridge Co., Ambridge, Pa., and Trenton, N. J.	90	50,662	97	49,783	2	900
American Shipbuilding Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	18	68,300	18	68,300	—	—
Anderson Steamboat Co., Seattle, Wash.	2	11,400	—	—	2	11,400
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	10	34,245	5	17,500	5	16,745
Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me.	3	1,600	3	1,600	—	—
Bethlehem Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.	14	91,997	5	36,450	9	55,547
Charles Barnes Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.	2	375	2	375	—	—
Chester Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	15	74,200	12	58,700	3	15,500
Clinton Shipbuilding & Repair Co., Phila- delphia, Pa.	1	560	—	—	1	560
Cowles Shipyard Co., Buffalo, N. Y.	1	36	1	36	—	—
Dubuque Boat & Boiler Works, Dubuque, Iowa.	2	1,415	2	1,415	—	—
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quin- cy, Mass.	12	79,700	10	66,344	2	13,356
George Lawley & Sons Corporation, Nepon- set, Mass.	1	75	1	75	—	—
Great Lakes Engineering Works, Detroit, Mich.	12	51,800	5	26,200	7	25,600
Great Lakes Towing Co., Cleveland, Ohio.	3	286	3	286	—	—
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation, Wil- mington, Del.	12	56,344	9	38,669	4	17,675
Howard Shipyards Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.	5	2,950	5	2,950	—	—
J. F. Duthie & Co., Seattle, Wash.	8	44,040	1	5,370	7	38,670
James Rees & Sons Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.	1	300	1	300	—	—
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wis.	9	16,852	5	9,800	4	7,052
Merrill-Stevens Co., Jacksonville, Fla.	4	2,500	4	2,500	—	—
Moore & Scott Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.	7	35,600	3	15,600	4	20,000

^a Details of new contracts not received.

^b Incomplete.

Ship yards.	Merchant construction, Dec. 1, 1916.		To be launched during fiscal year ending—			
			June 30, 1917.		June 30, 1918.	
	Num-ber.	Gross tons.	Num-ber.	Gross tons.	Num-ber.	Gross tons.
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.	13	91,673	7	46,425	6	45,248
New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J.	25	123,554	17	69,585	8	53,969
Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Co., Gloucester, N. J.	10	65,000	4	27,500	6	37,500
Pusey & Jones Co., Wilmington, Del.	12	11,850	6	2,250	6	9,600
Ritter-Conley Manufacturing Co., Baltimore, Md.	2	3,000			2	3,000
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., Seattle, Wash.	10	57,500	6	38,700	4	18,800
Skinner & Eddy Corporation, Seattle, Wash.	11	64,370	6	35,720	5	28,650
Spedden Shipbuilding Co., Baltimore, Md.	2	660	2	660		
Standard Shipbuilding Corporation, New York, N. Y.	8	38,400	8	38,400		
Staten Island Shipbuilding Co., Port Richmond, N. Y.	5	8,811	3	4,641	2	4,200
Sun Shipbuilding Co., Chester, Pa.	2	14,200			2	14,200
Tampa Foundry & Machine Co., Tampa, Fla.	1	2,000	1	2,000		
Tank-Ship Building Corporation, Newburgh, N. Y.	2	1,000	2	1,000		
Texas Steamship Co., Bath, Me.	4	26,000	2	12,600	2	13,400
Toledo Shipbuilding Co., Toledo, Ohio	7	19,700	5	15,700	2	4,000
Union Iron Works Co., San Francisco, Cal.	28	a 175,028	21	a 130,228	7	44,800
Williamette Iron & Steel Works and Northwest Steel Co., Portland, Oreg.	8	45,600	4	22,800	4	22,800
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co., Philadelphia, Pa.	8	51,400	8	54,400		
Total	400	a 1,428,003	294	a 904,231	106	523,772

a Incomplete.

Details of New Contracts.

The following table shows the details of new contracts for building steel ships entered into during November, 1916, as reported by shipbuilders:

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co.: Howard Greene..	145	11	Not given.....	Towing.....	August, 1917.
Chester Shipbuilding Co.: No. 356.....	6,500	10½	For foreign account...	Cargo.....	1918 delivery.
Clinton Shipbuilding & Repair Co.: No. 31.....	560		For local owners.....	do.....	
Dubuque Boat & Boiler Works: No. 39.....	1,350		Standard Oil Co. (La.)..	Bulk oil.....	June 1, 1917.
J. F. Duthie & Co.:	5,730		For Norwegian account.	Cargo.....	
Toledo Shipbuilding Co.: No. 142.....	2,000	10	A. R. Lewis.....	do.....	August, 1917.
No. 143.....	2,000	10	do.....	do.....	September, 1917.
Total (7 vessels).	18,285				

Completed Ships.

The following table shows the details of steel ships completed during the month of November, 1916, by the respective builders

named. When no rig is shown it will be understood that the vessel is a steamer.

Vessels.	Gross tonnage.	Speed, knots.	Owner.	Type.	Trade.
American Shipbuilding Co.: Chicago yard— Manta.....	2,061	9½	Atlantic, Gulf & West Indies S. S. Lines.	Cargo.....	Foreign.
Cleveland yard— Sioux.....	2,048	9½	do.....	do.....	Do.
Detroit yard— Carib.....	2,118	9½	do.....	do.....	Do.
Ozama.....	2,118	9½	do.....	do.....	Do.
Lars Forstenes.....	2,118	9½	Kongshavn & Sons (Nor.)	do.....	Do.
Lorain yard— D. M. Clemson.....	7,728	10	Pittsburgh S. S. Co.	do.....	Coasting.
Baltimore Dry Docks & Shipbuilding Co.: Pennant (Ga. s.).....	3,253	11½	Pierce Oil Corporation.....	Bulk oil..	Foreign.
Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation: Edward Luckenbach.....	8,151	12	Luckenbach S. S. Co.	Cargo.....	Do.
Great Lakes Engineering Works: Philadelphia.....	2,482	10	Atlantic, Gulf & West Indies S. S. Lines.	do.....	Do.
Norfolk.....	2,482	10	Clyde S. S. Co.	do.....	Do.
Clinchwood.....	2,532	10	Clinchfield Navigation Co.	Collier.....	Do.
Great Lakes Towing Co.: Mississippi.....	96	9	Great Lakes Towing Co.	Towing.....	Coasting.
Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation: Georganna Weems.....	2,088	10	Baltimore & Carolina S. S. Co.	Cargo.....	Do.
Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co.: White Cap.....	308	10	Bay State Fishing Co.	Trawler.....	Do.
Tide.....	303	10	do.....	do.....	Do.
Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.: William A. McKenny.....	6,256	10	Crowell & Thurlow S. S. Co.	Cargo.....	Foreign.
New York Shipbuilding Co.: Royal Arrow.....	7,794	11	Standard Transportation Co.	Bulk oil..	Do.
Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co.: Cauto.....	3,820	12	N. Y. & Cuba Mail S. S. Co.	Cargo.....	Do.
Spedden Shipbuilding Co.: Efficient (Ga. s.).....	43		Standard Oil Co. (N. J.)	Bulk oil..	Coasting.
Toledo Shipbuilding Co.: Daylite (Ga. s.).....	1,976	7	do.....	Cargo.....	Foreign.
Sunlite (Ga. s.).....	1,976	7	do.....	do.....	Do.
Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship & Engine Building Co.: Wm. Rockefeller.....	7,157	11	do.....	Bulk oil..	Do.
Total (22 vessels).....	68,922				

PROPOSED ELECTRIC-LIGHT SYSTEM FOR KAYING.

[Vice Consul Horace Renillard, Swatow, China, Nov. 9.]

The Kung Yen Press, under date of November 2, 1916, reported that a company to be known as the Electric Light Co. of Mei-hsien (Kayingchow) was attempting to take a census of householders and merchants in the Mei city (Kaying) who would wish to have electric lights installed, when such a system is established. The capacity of the plant would be 3,000 lamps and the engines will probably consume charcoal, which is a product of that district.

If this enterprise meets with success, it will make the fourth electric-light system in the Swatow consular district, the others being at Swatow city and Hsing-ning city, which are in operation, and at Chaochowfu, the contract to install which plant has been awarded to a certain American firm in China.

BANKING FACILITIES IN HANKOW.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China, Nov. 3.]

If the activities of banks and financial institutions are any criterion of the future of a port, certainly Hankow is destined to be a prosperous one. There are at present the following exchange banks maintaining offices in this city:

1. Bank of China	Chinese.
2. Bank of Communications	Chinese.
3. Banque Industrielle de Chine	French.
4. Banque de l'Indo-Chine	French.
5. Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	British.
6. Credit Foncier d'Extreme Orient	Belgian.
7. Deutsch-Asiatische Bank	German.
8. Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	British.
9. Industrial Bank	Chinese.
10. International Banking Corporation	American.
11. Russo-Asiatic Bank	Russian.
12. Tai Wan Bank	Japanese.
13. Yokohama Specie Bank	Japanese.

This list is exclusive of a very large number of Chinese banks in the Wuhan cities (Hankow, Hanyang, and Wuchang), which are of only local importance. There is a rumor that another Japanese bank, the Sumitomo, is arranging for a building.

Banks Own Their Own Buildings—Outlook Bright.

Of the foregoing established banks all but the International Banking Corporation and the Tai Wan Bank own their own property. The Tai Wan Bank is a recent acquisition, but it is thought that this institution also has under advisement the erection of its own building. The well-known Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is erecting commodious quarters similar to those occupied by it at other points. The Bank of China also is erecting a large building. In every direction may be seen evidences of the confidence of the banking institutions in the future of this port; not only are new banks opening branches here, but the old ones are increasing their facilities.

Hankow is primarily an exporting city. Raw products are drawn from a vast area of great fertility for sale in Hankow. Rivers converge here, railroads radiate from this point, and in time it will be a very much larger exporting center than it is at present. It is quite likely that the increased facilities being furnished by the banks are to finance exporters. It is but natural that loans will be made to the local shippers against merchandise shipped or in the godown awaiting shipment to foreign countries, and the banks will be taking a practical view to give the best possible aid in the transfer of China's raw products to Europe and America.

The Japanese banks, while they are exchange banks, do very little business except between China and Japan. The Chinese banks are only of domestic importance. The other banks transact the bulk of the exchange between this port and the Occident.

Settlement of Australian Coal Strike.

Consul General J. I. Brittain cabled from Sydney, Australia, under date of December 1 that the coal strike had been amicably settled.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

ARGENTINA.

Proposed Regulations for Commercial Travelers.

Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, has transmitted an article published in the Review of the River Plate for October 6, 1916, which quotes in full the law providing for a uniform license fee for commercial travelers in Argentina, to which reference was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 5, 1916.

Where a salesman represents but one line of business, the proposed fee is 400 pesos (Argentine paper peso, \$0.42), and for each additional class of articles carried by the traveler a charge of 200 pesos is contemplated. Salesmen soliciting orders for goods contained in all classes are to be subject to a license fee of 1,000 pesos. All licenses are to be valid for a period of one year, and duly licensed travelers are to be exempt from additional national taxes, as well as all provincial or municipal imposts.

The following are the five classes of merchandise for which separate licenses will be required, in the absence of a general license entitling the traveler to take orders for goods of any kind: (1) Articles of clothing and raw materials for the manufacture thereof; (2) foodstuffs and beverages and raw materials for their manufacture; (3) building materials and articles for use in agriculture, including fertilizers, insecticides, veterinary remedies, etc.; (4) machinery, including extra parts, and tools of all kinds; (5) articles not mentioned in other groups.

Credentials of travelers must be viséed by an Argentine consul in the country whence they come and should include a special power of attorney form (executed before a notary public) or a certificate issued by any official organization authorized to grant licenses to commercial travelers.

Samples of travelers may be cleared through the customs upon the presentation of a written application, giving a complete description of the goods, and the furnishing of bond for the amount of import duties. The latter will be canceled upon the reexportation of the samples within one year. Those seeking to evade the payment of license fee are to be subject to a fine of double the amount properly payable, failure to pay the fine resulting in imprisonment and confiscation of samples.

[A preliminary report on this bill was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 5, 1916. The official text of the bill (in Spanish) and of the presidential message accompanying it is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and will be loaned to those interested upon application.]

AUSTRALIA.

Marking of Lisle Goods.

According to an Australian customs order in effect October 1, 1916, the word "lisle" will not be accepted as a sufficient trade description of cotton goods. The name of the principal fiber (for instance, "cotton") must be used in place of the word "lisle" or in addition thereto.

Regulations for Used Clothing.

A recent Australian customs order states that used clothing originating in certain countries, including the United States, shall not be

imported for trade purposes, and clothing intended for the personal use of the importer or consignee must be submitted to the quarantine authorities for disinfection before clearance. An exception is made in the case of articles constituting part of a traveler's baggage and articles forwarded by parcel post, unless there are special circumstances which seem to require unusual precautions.

CANADA.

[Canada Gazette, Nov. 4.]

Drawback on Materials for Shipbuilding.

The Canadian Government, by an order in council dated October 21, 1916, has authorized the payment of a drawback not exceeding 99 per cent of the duty on imported materials used in the original construction of vessels having more than 500 tons gross tonnage. Canadian shipbuilders may claim drawback, however, only in the case of vessels which are "authorized by order in council to be exported for registry outside of Canada or are British Registered in Canada and are constructed so as to obtain a class in Lloyds, Bureau Veritas, British Corporation, or other recognized classification satisfactory to the Minister of Customs."

SIERRA LEONE'S TRADE IN PALM PRODUCTS.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal. Oct. 30.]

According to figures recently made available, the exports of palm kernels from Sierra Leone during 1915 increased in quantity by 3,709 tons, but decreased in value by \$268,992, when compared with the figures of 1914, last year's total being 39,624 tons worth \$2,452,625. The decrease in the market value was very noticeable. The price in Europe at one time fell as low as \$60 a ton, whereas in the preceding year it was never below \$77.50, nor below \$102.18 in 1913. Toward the end of the year, however, prices rose steadily and by December had reached \$92.45.

In 1913 Germany secured 48,016 tons of the kernels, out of a total of 49,201 tons exported; but last year all went to the United Kingdom, where crushing mills have been established.

Nut butter, or margarine, into the composition of which the oil of the kernel largely enters, is at present in general use in the United Kingdom, and will probably sustain its place on the market, even when the price of butter again becomes normal.

Prices for palm oil on the European market were well maintained throughout 1915, and increases are shown in both the quantity and value of the oil exported from this colony. Palm oil is used principally in the manufacture of soap and for lubricating purposes. The volume of export last year was 481,576 gallons valued at \$227,101, as compared with 436,144 gallons worth \$187,521, in 1914. Of the total quantity exported, 384,006 gallons went to the United Kingdom and 89,869 gallons to France. In 1913, out of a total of 617,089 gallons, 509,688 gallons went to the United Kingdom, 69,786 gallons to Germany, and none to France. France has more than adequately assumed the place of Germany as an importer of this product.

Palm kernels and palm oil are the chief exports from Sierra Leone, the next in importance being ginger and piassava.

COTTON FABRICS AND WOOLEN GOODS IN GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 18.]

The Republic of Guatemala imported last year cotton fabrics to the value of \$758,570, of which \$455,540 worth came from the United States and \$241,848 worth from England, a gain of 32 per cent over 1914 for American cotton goods. This increase is largely due to a deflection of trade; but much of the business, especially in the cheaper fabrics, went to the United States before the war and will remain with it after the great international readjustment.

The most popular American fabric in the Guatemala market, according to dealers and importers, is a species of cheap gray drill retailing locally at 12 to 15 cents United States gold per yard. There is a large consumption of this material. Cheap calico prints of American manufacture retail locally at 10 to 12 cents a yard. In imports of American muslins, lawns, silks, and other finer fabrics there is a marked increase. Previously this trade, especially in the finer fabrics, was largely shared with England and with France.

Few Ready-Made Garments Imported.

Except a few gowns, robes, and cloaks imported each year from Paris, nearly the entire importation of cotton fabrics, woollens, and worsteds comes into Guatemala in the form of piece goods. Scarcely any ready-to-wear suits, either for men or for women and children, are brought into Guatemala as the customs duty on materials in this form is so high as to be practically prohibitive. The average duty on a man's suit of clothing is \$8 United States gold.

There appears to be a stronger demand than before the war for white materials; for the consumers of prints have discovered a deterioration in quality in these fabrics, due, it is alleged, to the use of inferior dyes.

Cheap cotton fabrics, such as drills, pay a customs duty of $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents United States gold and $7\frac{1}{2}$ centavos Guatemalan currency per kilo of 2.2046 pounds. Better grades pay from 30 to 40 cents United States gold and a like amount in Guatemalan currency. The Guatemalan currency is greatly depreciated, and at this time 1 peso Guatemalan is worth very little more than 2 cents United States gold. Still higher duty is imposed on finer grades of woven muslins, amounting to \$0.50 United States gold and 50 centavos Guatemalan currency per kilo.

Woollens and Worsteds Much Worn.

In 1915 Guatemala imported woollens and worsteds valued at \$52,308. Of this amount goods to the value of \$22,973 were imported from England and woollens to the value of \$9,308 came from the United States. The other countries participating in this trade were Germany, France, and Holland. Guatemalan dealers claim that the English woollen fabrics are especially good, the American product not giving equal satisfaction in the way of fast dyes. Competition for the woollen trade of Guatemala has been keen between England, the United States, and Germany, and it promises again to become intense after the war. Before the war woollen goods for women's apparel were largely imported from Germany, while the woollens for men's wear were brought principally from England.

Although Guatemala lies within the Tropics woollens and worsteds are much worn, and this is particularly true in Guatemala City and Quezaltenango, where, because of the altitudes (5,000 and 7,000 feet, respectively), there is a marked difference between maximum and minimum temperatures. Guatemala City has a population of 100,000 and is the largest city of Central America.

The customs duty on common fabrics one-half wool is 62½ cents United States gold and 62½ centavos Guatemalan currency per kilo. Better grades pay 75 cents gold and 75 centavos Guatemalan currency. All-wool goods pay from \$1.25 United States gold and 1.25 pesos Guatemalan currency per kilo to \$1.50 United States gold and 1.50 pesos Guatemalan currency per kilo, while woollen goods containing silk are subject to still higher duties.

[A list of the principal importers and dealers of cotton fabrics and woollen goods in Guatemala City may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82408.]

LACE MAKING A COTTAGE INDUSTRY IN BENGAL.

[Vice Consul J. P. Doughten, Calcutta, Bengal, India, Oct. 30.]

In or near Calcutta no proper organization of workers in hand-made laces and embroideries exists. The industry is of the class generally known as a "cottage industry." Lace is, in fact, not made locally on a commercial scale, the trade being confined practically to "Chikon-work" embroideries.

According to the latest census tables the number of lace and embroidery workers in Bengal in 1911 was only 1,764, but in the opinion of local dealers the total number of cottage workers engaged at present in the industry may be placed roughly at 8,000. The scale of wages for both men and women ranges from 4 to 12 cents gold a day, according to the nature of the embroidery. The majority of the workers are said to be women who do not earn more than 4 or 6 cents a day.

The annual output of handmade embroideries in Bengal can not be ascertained with accuracy, as there are no statistics of production. A dealer of some standing estimates its value at \$80,000 to \$100,000.

[A list of the principal Bengal dealers in handmade embroideries may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 82700.]

"OPPORTUNITY" NOTE BRINGS PERMANENT TRADE.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, Jr., Bristol, England, Nov. 29.]

A Bristol firm informs me that it has made several large purchases of white flint and opal glass bottles from an American manufacturer with whom it got in touch through a "Trade Opportunity" published in COMMERCE REPORTS. Quality and price, the firm states, compare favorably with similar products formerly obtained by it from France.

Although at first the bottles were not packed in a manner to stand the journey, considerable breakage being the rule, they are now being received packed with tin-foil and straw in a very efficient manner. The shape and style of the bottles have been quite satisfactory.

ARGENTINE MARKET FOR PAPER BOXES AND LABELS.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Oct. 26.]

There is very little demand in Rosario at present for paper boxes and labels for druggists and similar lines. Before the war the market was considerably better and boxes were imported from Germany, France, and the United Kingdom; while British, American, German, and French labels were used.

The total imports of pasteboard boxes of all kinds into Argentina in 1913 were officially valued at a little under \$100,000. Imports of paper and pasteboard labels were valued at about \$66,000. Boxes and labels are made in Argentina, which has numerous lithographic establishments. The difficulty of securing foreign merchandise promptly, as well as high freight rates, has given the Argentine industry a new advantage and its relative share of the market has been considerably increased by the war. Imports of boxes into Argentina in 1915 were valued at about \$30,000, while labels imported were valued at about \$37,000. High freight rates naturally fall more heavily on boxes, which occupy more space. Probably less than 10 per cent of imports of boxes and labels are entered at Rosario or elsewhere in this district. On the other hand a considerable proportion of the articles entered at Buenos Aires eventually find their way into the interior.

The Local Industry—Import Duties.

As respects cost of production, the Argentine industry can not compete with those of the leading manufacturing countries. In addition to the higher cost of imported raw materials and supplies, skilled labor is expensive. The industry is, however, protected. Pasteboard boxes for druggists are classified under paragraph 3551 of the Argentine import tariff and are subject to an import duty of 25 per cent, to which must be added the usual surtax of 2 per cent levied on all imports the duty on which is 10 per cent or over. Labels for druggists, liquids, etc., are classified under paragraphs 2454 and 2455 and are subject to an import duty of 40 per cent, plus the usual surtax of 2 per cent. The foregoing duties are not assessed on the market or invoice value, but on the "aforo" or officially fixed value for customs purposes, which is, for small pasteboard boxes for druggists, etc., 80 gold centavos (77.2 cents) per kilo (2.2 pounds), and for labels classified under paragraphs 2454 and 2455, 1 gold peso (96.5 cents) per kilo if in one color and 1.30 gold peso (\$1.2545) per kilo if in two or more colors. This makes the duty in reality equivalent to a specific rate of 9.45 cents per pound for boxes and 18.4 cents and 23.9 cents per pound, respectively, for labels. Boxes are weighed with their wrapping. In addition to the import duty and surtax, the Argentine tariff prescribes certain official charges for customs handling, storage, and statistics which amounts to a little under 1 per cent of the value of merchandise. The foregoing duties and charges apply to boxes and labels from all countries, there being no preferential or conventional rates.

When Possible Representative Should Visit the District.

As a rule not a great deal is accomplished here through correspondence and catalogues alone, except when solicited in advance. Where the possible demand appears to warrant the expense, the most satis-

factory method of securing a foothold in the market is by sending out a personal representative to study conditions and get into touch with customers. This visit may be repeated periodically or an agency may be placed with some local firm.

The recognized credit terms here are 90 days from the arrival of goods, but many importers are accustomed to pay cash against documents when dealing with American firms. It is often well to give the customer an opportunity to inspect the merchandise before accepting the documents. If it is desired to build up a permanent business, it is advisable to offer some credit facilities.

Prices quoted f. o. b. New York are acceptable to the leading Rosario houses. C. i. f. quotations are, however, to be preferred, particularly when dealing with smaller concerns whose facilities for information may be limited.

At present, very few vessels come through to Rosario from American ports. Goods can, however, be transhipped at Buenos Aires.

Correspondence and catalogues intended for Argentina should be in Spanish.

[A list of importing druggists in Rosario and the name of an importer of lithographic products can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82494.]

MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR PLOWS IN GERMANY.

[Consul General Julius G. Lay, Berlin, Nov. 21.]

The motor plow that was invented by a citizen of Elbing, near Danzig, Germany, possesses many admirable features, but on account of its rigid middle beam it is not as valuable as some of the later inventions of the same type. These plows are greatly in demand in East Prussia, where the fields are large and labor is scarce. The plow mentioned costs about 17,000 marks (\$4,046) before the war, but now brings 35,000 marks (\$8,330).

The best plow of this type is the "Stock," manufactured in Berlin. In 1913, about 700 from that factory were placed upon the market. More have been sold during the war. These plows are known not only in Germany, but also in many of the agricultural countries of Europe, such as Austria-Hungary, Russia, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Denmark. Some have been sold in South America, Australia, and the German colonies. After the war these plows will doubtless have a large market abroad, because during the past two years they have been further perfected.

COTTON-BALING PRESSES FOR BRAZIL.

[Commercial Attaché William C. Downs, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 9, supplementing report in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 29, 1916.]

Col. Sampaio Ferraz, commissioned by the directorate of the Lloyd Brasileiro Steamship Co., is visiting the principal ports of northern Brazil to determine which are the most appropriate for the installation of presses and machines for treating cotton. He is accompanied by engineers who will work out the complete plans for the installation. Afterwards Col. Ferraz will proceed to the United States to acquire the proper machinery, the purchase of which has been authorized by the Lloyd Brasileiro.

SHIPBUILDING ACTIVITY IN GÖTEBORG.

[Consul E. M. Rasmussen, Göteborg, Sweden, Nov. 17.]

The present high freight rates and high prices of tonnage, coupled with the obstacles in the way of purchasing vessels from abroad, have caused great activity in Swedish shipyards. The shipbuilding industry is hampered, however, from lack of necessary building material, and construction work has been retarded through difficulties in procuring necessary material and machinery from abroad, and also from lack of skilled workmen.

Extensive shipbuilding that bids fair to keep the local shipyards busy far into the future is contemplated, and contracts have been signed for sufficient tonnage to keep every shipyard in Göteborg busy for a long period.

Contracts for Vessels.

The Grängesbergsbolaget, exporters of ore, Stockholm, has entered into a contract with Aktiebolaget Göteborgs Mekaniska Verkstad, Göteborg, for the construction of 18 large steamers at an aggregate price of 40,000,000 crowns (\$10,720,000), which is the largest order ever placed with a Swedish shipbuilding concern, and which will require years to complete.

Another large order for new tonnage has been made by Rederiaktiebolaget Transatlantic, Göteborg, to Lindholmens Mekaniska Verkstadsaktiebolag, Göteborg, for two new 7,900-ton freighters, which makes six new vessels added to the Transatlantic Co.'s tonnage during the present year. At the beginning of the war in 1914 the Transatlantic Co.'s fleet consisted of 9 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 59,650, which in two years has been increased to 27 vessels with a tonnage aggregating 153,225.

The construction of the new vessels referred to will be made by Göteborgs Mekaniska Verkstad and Lindholmens Mekaniska Verkstadsaktiebolag, respectively, and are not open for tender. A considerable portion of the material and machinery which enter into the construction of vessels, however, must necessarily be imported from abroad, and the fact that such construction will require a long time to complete will give American firms ample time to negotiate for the supply of materials needed.

Communications should be addressed to Göteborgs Nya Verkstadsaktiebolag and Lindholmens Mekaniska Verkstadsaktiebolag, respectively, Göteborg, Sweden, and correspondence may be carried on in English.

AMERICAN WALL PAPERS FIND FAVOR IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul H. D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, Nov. 27.]

American wall paper is gradually taking first place in the Dunfermline markets over all competitors save British. Through the initiative of this consulate American papers were introduced some years ago and have been growing in popularity, until at present they are firmly established in this vicinity. One of the leading firms of paper hangers states that its trade has expanded from a small first order to nearly half of the total stock now carried.

The American papers are regarded as distinctive and out of the ordinary in design, and are in demand for the finest residences in the city. The unconventional American patterns have come into special demand this season.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Delchman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dumdee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mandota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	do.	"Islington," Walkerford, A mherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

HUMPBAC-SALMON EGGS SHIPPED FROM ALASKA.

A shipment of 16,000,000 humpback-salmon eggs was made during the past month from Afognak, Alaska, to points on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the United States. The consignment left Alaska November 2 and arrived at Seattle, Wash., November 10. The eggs were accompanied by a messenger to that point. They were then re-iced and distributed to various stations.

The transfer of 4,000,000 eggs from Seattle to the station at Bird-view, Wash., was made by messenger, and 2,000,000 each were sent to the stations at Duckabush and Quilcene, Wash. The remainder of the shipment from Alaska was sent east in the charge of the field superintendent and divided equally between the two trout stations of the bureau in the State of Maine.

In each instance they arrived in excellent condition and with much smaller losses than in past years.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Bars, iron and steel.....	23286	Nails.....	23286
Beeswax.....	23285	Naval stores.....	23286
Canned goods.....	23282	Oil, cotton.....	23279
Cement.....	23286	Paper, wrapping.....	23282
Draftsmen's supplies.....	23284	Piece goods.....	23280
Feedstuffs.....	23282	Pork, salt.....	23282
Flour.....	23282	Rosin.....	23279, 23286
Furniture.....	23286	Shrimps.....	23286
Galvanized iron sheets.....	23286	Steel and manufactures of.....	23277, 23286
Iron, manufactures of.....	23277	Soap ingredients.....	23283
Lamps, alcohol.....	23283	Tacks.....	23284
Machinery, acetic acid.....	23287	Tin plate.....	23286
Machinery, alcohol.....	23287	Tools.....	23284
Machinery, button and comb.....	23278	Vegetables.....	23282
Machinery, starch and glucose.....	23287	Violin strings.....	23281
Machinery, toothbrush.....	23278	Wire, barbed.....	23286

23277.*—A firm in Spain is in the market for perforated plates for screening purposes and of iron rings and steel jaws for the trituration of pyrite ore. Correspondence in English.

23278.†—A firm in Colombia wishes to communicate with manufacturers of machinery for making combs, buttons, and toothbrushes.

23279.*—The proprietors of a soap factory in Switzerland desire to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton oil and rosin. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23280.†—A man in Argentina desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of fleeced-back goods, printed flannels, woollens, etc. References upon request.

23281.*—A firm in Canada is desirous of communicating with American manufacturers of violin strings.

23282.‡—A man in Cuba would like to represent American manufacturers and exporters of grain, hay, bran, corn meal, flour, potatoes, salt pork, oils and greases, and other ingredients used in the manufacture of soap; wrapping paper, California beans, and canned goods. References furnished upon request.

23283.*—A firm in Brazil is in the market for alcohol lamps and would like to have price lists, catalogues, etc., with regard to same. Correspondence in Portuguese.

23284.*—A man in Spain desires to purchase artisans' tools, draftsmen's supplies, steel, brass thumb tacks, and double-pointed steel tacks. He would like to be furnished with catalogues of same. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made in cash. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

23285.*—A firm in England is in the market for white bleached beeswax discs packed in 1 cwt. cases. Payment will be made against documents in London. References.

23286.*—A firm in Cuba desires to represent American exporters of shrimp, packed in 200-pound barrels; tin plate, barbed wire, cement, nails, iron and steel bars, galvanized-iron sheets, rosin, turpentine, and furniture. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Cuban port or f. o. b. American port. Cash will be paid. Correspondence in English. References.

23287.*—A man in Norway wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery for manufacturing starch, glucose, alcohol, and acetic acid.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
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No. 296 Washington, D. C., Monday, December 18 1916

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PORTO RICO'S 1917 SUGAR SEASON OPENS.

[Harwood Hull, correspondent, San Juan, Dec. 6.]

The 1917 Porto Rican sugar season started this week when Guanica Centrale commenced grinding cane on Monday, December 4. Nine hundred bags of sugar had been made at 6 p. m. Tuesday.

There is every indication that this will be the biggest sugar season the island has ever had. The only official estimate of the probable production of sugar for the season is that of J. Ruiz Soler, secretary of the Sugar Growers' Association, who has stated that the crop will make 510,800 short tons of sugar. This is a considerable increase over the 1916 campaign, completed several months ago, for which the Insular Government figured a production of 483,590 short tons. Individual estimates of sugar growers in close touch with crop conditions place the probable production for 1917 as high as 550,000, or even 600,000 tons, depending largely on weather conditions.

During the past two weeks weather conditions have been more favorable for the growing and ripening of cane than for several months. Generally speaking, the season has been one of unprecedented rains, with a consequent lack of sunshine and hot days. This has retarded the development of the sugar cane, but to just what extent it will affect sugar production is not known.

CHANGES IN BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

A cablegram from the American consul general at London, dated December 13, reports numerous changes in the British embargo list. The following symbols are in use to denote the class of prohibition: A, exportation prohibited to all destinations; B, exportation prohibited except to British possessions and protectorates; C, exportation prohibited to foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France and French possessions, Russia, Italy, and Italian possessions, Spain, and Portugal, and to all Russian Baltic ports. Wherever a new item replaces or amends a

former one the deleted heading or classification is placed in parentheses. The following articles are now prohibited:

A—Living animals for food (formerly B); peroxide of manganese and mixtures (formerly peroxide of manganese); zirconium compounds; beans; brewers' and distillers' grains (formerly C); buckwheat (formerly C); biscuit meal (formerly C); calf meal (formerly C); coconut and poonac cake (formerly C); compound cakes and meal (formerly B); cottonseed cake and cottonseed meal (formerly B); fish meal and concentrated fish (formerly C); gluten meal or gluten feed (formerly C); ground nut, nut, cake, and meal (formerly C, ground nut or earth nut cake and meal); hempseed cake and meal (formerly C); husk meal (formerly C); linseed cake and meal (formerly B); whale cake and whale meal (formerly B); other feeding stuffs (formerly C), viz, locust bean meal, maize germ meal, maize meal and flour, meat meal, palmit cake and meal, poppyseed cake and meal, rapeseed or colzaeed cake and meal, sesame seed cake and meal, soya-bean cake and meal, sunflower seed cake and meal, chick peas, darl, gram or dhol, green forage, lupin seeds, maize germs, millet, corn and grain mill dust and screenings, pigeon peas; feeding stuffs (formerly B), viz, lentils, maize, malt dust, malt flour, culms, sprouts or combings, rice meal (or bran) and dust, patent and proprietary cattle foods of all kinds; fuel economizers with cast-iron pipes as auxiliary heating apparatus with land or marine steam boilers; thorium and its alloys; zirconium and its alloys; arrowroot (formerly C); barley, barley meal and pearled and pot barley (formerly B); bean flour and meal (formerly C); biscuits, bread, and cakes (formerly C); butter (formerly B); cassava powder (formerly C); cheese (formerly B); corn flour and corn grits (formerly C); eggs in shells (formerly B); fish (C); hominy (C); lentil flour and meal (C); macaroni (C); mandioca (C); meat, namely, bacon, ham, and pork; condensed or preserved milk (B); milk powder; oatmeal and rolled oats (B); onions (C); pea flour and meal (C); peas, except tinned and bottled (B); prepared foods, wholly or partly of cereals (C); rice and rice flour (C); rye, rye flour and meal (C); sago and sago flour and meal (C); semolina (C); spaghetti (O); tapioca and tapioca flour (C); vegetables, canned (C); vegetables, fresh, not specifically prohibited (C); vermicelli (C); thermometers (clinical, formerly B); wood pulp.

B—Electric lamps, except carbon filament lamps, arc lamps for street lighting, and pocket electric lamps and component parts (formerly B, amended); fish bones; clippings of hides and pelts; agricultural machinery other than motor plows and motor tractors; lead, except pig lead and compound (formerly B, amended); clover and grass seeds (O); the following root crop seeds: Carrot, kohlrabi, mangold, onion, Swedish turnip; oil varnishes; zirconium ore.

C—Animal hoofs and other glue stock, including untanned pelts and hides not specifically prohibited, fish bladders, and fish skins; barrels and casks, empty, and distinctive component parts, other than barrels or casks previously imported full and returning empty, whether whole or in parts; formates not otherwise prohibited; iridium, osmium, palladium, rhodium, and ruthenium compounds; white lead; oxalates not otherwise prohibited; soda lime; sulphites and thiosulphates, metallic, not otherwise prohibited; pocket electric lamps and component parts; glue, osseine and concentrated size, fish glue, isinglass, finings and other kinds of gelatine, Iceland, Irish and sphagnum moss, algin; iridium, osmium, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, and alloys; meat not specifically prohibited; canary seeds; spices and mixtures thereof, except pepper; raw and prepared sponges; gas, steam, and water valves; wood screws made of brass, iron, or steel.

FRENCH BANK FOR CHILE.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago.]

The *Diario Ilustrado* for November 14 contained the following item concerning the opening of a new foreign bank in Santiago:

El Banco Francés de Chile (the French Bank of Chile) will soon open its doors in Santiago. It will have a capital of 3,500,000 pesos (about \$700,000). The Government has already approved the statutes, and the report of the Inspector of banks as to the bona fide existence of the capital alone remains to be made.

It is understood that this organization will acquire or control the Bank of the Republic, which has been closed for some time.

EXPORTS OF PERUVIAN PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Wm. H. Handley, Callao-Lima, Nov. 23.]

Since the law levying an export tax on agricultural and mineral products became effective in November, 1915, the customs authorities of Peru have been issuing more reliable statistics covering the exports of both agricultural and mineral products. The authorities at Callao give the total quantity of sugar exported from all Peruvian ports during the first six months of 1916 at 108,706 metric tons, of which 27,640 kilos (60,934 pounds) were chancaca. The total quantity of sugar exported during the calendar year 1915 was 220,257 metric tons.

The quantity of raw cotton exported during the first six months of 1916 is given by the national customs authorities as nearly 6,232 metric tons, about 20 per cent being lint. The total exports of cotton and lint during 1915 amounted to 21,124 tons.

The amount of hides exported from the Republic during the same period was nearly 1,118 tons in weight, of which 260 tons were fresh hides, the remainder being dry. There was a decrease in the exportation of hides during the first six months of 1916, in comparison with the same period of 1915. The total exports during 1915 is given at 2,857 metric tons.

Demand for Wool.

There was a good demand for all kinds of Peruvian wool during the first six months of this year, the exports being over 3,164 metric tons, consisting of sheep, alpaca, and llama wool. About 65 per cent of the wool exported from Peru is shipped from the southern port of Mollendo. The total quantity of all grades of wool exported during the year 1915 was 5,900 tons. There is at present a keen demand for this material. American importers interested in the purchase of Peruvian wool should take up the matter directly with the American consular agent at Mollendo, or with this office.

The export tax paid by Peruvian exporters on the four above products during the first six months of 1916 was as follows: Sugar, \$287,502; wool, \$33,478; hides, \$25,622; and cotton, \$24,487, or a total of \$371,089.

RECORDS SHOW INCREASED AMOUNT OF FOG.

Results obtained by the United States Bureau of Lighthouses by tabulating the figures from the various fog-signal stations throughout the service show that the average amount of fog was greater during the fiscal year 1916 than during the preceding year, except in the lake districts where the amount varied very little from that recorded in the fiscal year 1915. The figures represent the total hours of fog or thick weather observed.

The greatest amount of fog was observed at San Francisco Light Vessel, Cal., in the eighteenth district, aggregating 2,221 hours for the year, or approximately 25 per cent of the time. The highest record on the Atlantic coast was that at Egg Rock, Me., in the first district, where 2,043 hours of fog occurred, equivalent to about 23 per cent of the year.

EXHIBITIONS OF BRITISH PRODUCTS.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Nov. 13.]

Australians Interested in Imperial Exhibit.

The following notice appeared in the Journal of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce of November 4, 1916, relative to an exhibit of goods manufactured in Great Britain:

The Imperial Government has on foot a scheme for a traveling exhibition of goods manufactured in Great Britain. It is intended that this exhibition shall visit Africa and all the principal ports of Australia. According to the statements received, some 500 manufacturers will contribute exhibits and the co-operation of the chamber of commerce is sought in respect to the proposed exhibition. Steps are being taken by the committee of the chamber of commerce in Sydney to actively cooperate and, if possible, to blend with the British exhibits a display of locally manufactured articles.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Nov. 30.]

British Industries Fair at Glasgow.

The Bradford Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting held November 28, received a deputation from the Glasgow Corporation in regard to an exhibit from Yorkshire at the British Industries Fair to be held at Glasgow from February 26 to March 10, 1917, under the auspices and with the support of the National Board of Trade. It is proposed that two such fairs be held, one in London and the other in Glasgow, with the object of bringing the manufacturers and buyers into closer touch. The Glasgow exhibition will be devoted to textiles, food-stuffs, and household chemicals. In spite of the short notice, the invitation will probably be favorably considered by Bradford manufacturers.

[Extract from Johannesburg Star, forwarded by Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Nov. 2.]

Successful Showing of South African Products.

The exhibition of South African products in London has been open for a fortnight and proved most attractive. It has, in fact, been so successful that it has quite justified the intention to continue it for the next 12 months in some other equally central position in London, where even more varieties and larger quantities of Union products may be shown.

The present strong demand for foodstuffs in Great Britain provides an exceptional opportunity for the exhibition and sale of goods such as those dealt with, and excellent results have accrued both as regards advertising the capacities of the Union and disposing of the wares for sale. The South African dried fruits and maize products are declared equal to the best obtainable. The public have been buying eagerly, and numerous inquiries for supplies in bulk have been received from wholesale dealers.

A consignment of South African butter, arranged for some time ago, arrived most opportunely, while the exhibition was in progress. The bulk of it was sold at 24d. (49 cents), as against 26d. to 28d. for English butter, to which its quality was compared. For tobacco and crayfish, as well as other articles that were on sale, there was a larger demand than could be supplied.

HEALTH DATA OF ARGENTINA'S LATEST CENSUS.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, Nov. 8.]

Recently published partial returns of the Argentine census of June 1, 1914, furnish the following data with respect to the health and physical infirmities of the population:

The reports show a total of 88,866 persons sick in bed on June 1, 1914, or an average of 1,127 sick for every 100,000 inhabitants. The average for the previous census (1895) was only 426 per 100,000. Two factors may be responsible for the unusual increase in the proportion of sick. In the first place, adverse climatic phenomena (the country was visited by unprecedented rains and many districts were inundated) made sanitary conditions unfavorable; and, in the second place, many inhabitants may have reported themselves as sick, although not in bed, in spite of the census directions.

The number of inhabitants reported sick per 100,000 was, for the various Provinces, as follows: City of Buenos Aires, 1,123; Province of Buenos Aires, 956; Santa Fe, 777; Entre Rios, 1,456; Corrientes, 977; Cordoba, 1,400; San Luis, 1,581; Santiago del Estero, 1,272; Tucuman, 1,131; Mendoza, 950; San Juan, 819; La Rioja, 1,594; Catamarca, 1,675; Salta, 2,265; Jujuy, 2,079.

The Blind and the Deaf and Dumb.

In 1914 Argentina had 6,856 blind against 3,526 in 1895, although the number per 100,000 inhabitants shows a falling off from 89 in 1895 to 87 in 1914. The blind are very unevenly distributed over the Republic. In the eastern Provinces their number in comparison with the total population is very small, whereas the proportion of blind in the northern Provinces is exceedingly high.

The same holds true of the deaf mutes, of whom there were 7,798 in Argentina in 1914 or 99 per 100,000 inhabitants. The 1895 census showed 142 deaf mutes for every 100,000 inhabitants. The region comprising the Provinces of Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy reported 373 deaf and dumb per 100,000 inhabitants in 1914 against 510 in 1895 and 1,035 in 1869. The Provinces of Mendoza, San Juan, La Rioja, and Catamarca had an average of 197 per 100,000 in 1914, 401 in 1895, and 676 in 1869. On the other hand in the coast region, including the city and Province of Buenos Aires, and the Provinces of Santa Fe, Corrientes, and Entre Rios, the average number of deaf mutes per 100,000 inhabitants was 64 in 1914, 59 in 1895, and 158 in 1869.

[For Consul Dawson's report on the population returns of this census see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 24, 1916.]

Exempting Brazilian Refrigerating Plants from Taxes.

Commercial Attaché William C. Downs reports from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that a bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives of Rio Grande do Sul to exempt from taxes for 30 years refrigerating plants that may be established in the State for the conservation of meat, fruit, milk products, cereals, and other food products.

ITALY'S DECREE REGULATING CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Nov. 8.]

By Royal Decree No. 1332 of October 18, 1916, the Government assumes control over the distribution and consumption of sugar and establishes maximum prices at which it may be sold by refiners and dealers. The surtax on the manufacture of sugar, which, by Royal Decree No. 1080 of August 31, 1916, was fixed at 17 lire (\$3.28) per quintal (220.46 pounds), is increased by the present decree to 62 lire (\$11.97). The maximum wholesale price is placed at 225 lire (\$43.43) per quintal.

A committee to regulate the consumption of sugar is constituted in the Ministry of Agriculture. It is presided over by the Minister of Agriculture and is composed of a representative each from the Ministries of Interior, Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, Finance, and War.

Committee to Determine Monthly Apportionments.

This committee is to determine the quantity of sugar to be apportioned monthly to each Province, both for direct consumption and for industrial uses. The superintendent of finance, with two assistants, will determine the quantity of sugar to be apportioned to each commune from the quantity assigned to the respective Provinces. The distribution in the commune is made upon a license, valid for one month, granted by the mayor to the users of sugar. Such licenses are based upon the demand and the available supply. For the factories, refineries, and commercial organizations a Government agent will be named, who will be charged with the duty of supervising the distribution of sugar and without whose authorization no shipment or consignment shall be made.

All license holders are obliged to maintain a register, indicating every consignment of sugar received, whence received, and, day by day, the quantity used. Dealers or manufacturers who fill orders for private speculation or sell amounts above normal with a view to diminishing the supply available for the public, or sell at a price below the established one, or refuse to sell without just cause may upon proper evidence procured by the superintendent of finance be refused, for one or more months, the license of the mayor to purchase. Penalties are set forth for those not conforming with the various provisions of the law.

Must Keep Documents for Inspection.

Whoever has in stock or keeps for sale goods containing sugar not of his own manufacture must hold in his place of trade, for ready inspection by the police, invoices or documents showing whence shipped. Bars and similar establishments in the retail trade dispensing drinks containing sugar are not subject to the license.

A noteworthy provision is that which forbids the use of sugar for oenological purposes, except for the manufacture of vermouth and sparkling wines, in which case a suitable license must be obtained.

The sum of 150,000 lire (\$28,950) is appropriated both to the Ministry of Agriculture and to the Ministry of Finance for the enforcement of the law.

[Previous mention of the Italian regulation of the consumption of sugar was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 6, 1916.]

TRADE ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH WALES.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Wales, Nov. 6.]

The exports, coastwise and foreign, through the port of Swansea during the nine months ended September 30, 1916, amounted to 3,622,185 long tons, or a decrease of 999,735 tons compared with the corresponding period in 1913, and 279,920 tons less than for the first nine months of 1915.

Of a total export trade amounting to 3,622,185 tons in the first nine months of 1916, coal, coke, and patent fuel accounted for 3,263,267 tons and tinplates, terneplates, and black plates for 197,235 tons. Coal, coke, and patent fuel declined by 945,336 tons as compared with the first nine months of 1913, and tinplate by 64,554 tons.

It is estimated that during the calendar year 1916, coal, coke, and patent fuel exported will be about 1,060,000 tons less than in the normal year of 1913. Tinplate will show a decline of approximately 100,000 tons for the whole of 1916 as compared with an average pre-war year.

Principal Exports from Swansea.

Exports of principal articles, coastwise and foreign, through the port of Swansea, during the nine months ended September 30, 1913, 1914, 1915, and 1916, according to official figures supplied by the manager of the Swansea Harbour Trust, are given in the following table:

Articles.	Nine months ended Sept. 30—			
	1913	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Coal and coke.....	3,376,513	2,808,166	2,888,957	2,593,295
Patent fuel.....	732,090	636,683	595,783	609,972
Copper, copper ore, spelter, etc.....	2,111	827	2,801	1,598
Iron, steel rails, castings, etc.....	2,420	1,592	13,454	7,038
Tin, terne, and black plates.....	261,789	247,814	212,376	197,235
Galvanized sheets.....	41,072	32,418	10,536	4,708
Alkali, superphosphate, arsenic, etc.....	18,717	16,011	23,718	11,010
Flour, grain, potatoes, etc.....	10,777	10,918	9,710	11,232
Ale, stout, and spirits.....	1,406	1,749	304	29
General merchandise (average).....	168,025	148,000	144,466	
General merchandise (estimate for 1916).....				126,068
Total.....	4,614,920	3,501,178	3,902,105	3,622,185

Coal Shipments from Swansea and Port Talbot.

Exports of coal from Swansea to foreign countries during September, 1916, amounted to 212,945 tons, of which 153,083 tons were shipped to France, 29,498 tons to Italy, 16,519 tons to Scandinavia, and 10,200 tons to Spain. These exports showed a decrease of 87,661 tons as compared with the corresponding month in 1915 and a decrease of 19,392 tons as compared with August, 1916. This decrease was the result of a dispute between the coal trimmers and shipowners over wages.

In September, 1916, 233,790 tons of coal were exported from Port Talbot, of which 190,845 tons went to France, 32,798 tons to Spain, and 4,805 tons to Algeria. These exports show an increase of 110,332 tons, as compared with the corresponding month in 1915, and an increase of 36,165 tons over the exports in August, 1916. For the first time on record Port Talbot exported more coal than Swansea. Port

Talbot alone of all the South Wales ports has shown large increases in its exports during the current year due to the completion in 1915 of extensive new docks which have made this port capable of competing with the older ports of Cardiff and Swansea.

Shipments of Coal from South Wales Ports.

The total exports of coal as cargo during September, 1915 and 1916, from the four chief ports of South Wales to foreign countries, also bunker coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade are given in the following table:

Ports.	Coal as cargo.		Bunker coal.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Cardiff	987,169	931,489	167,644	201,301
Newport	291,576	317,847	50,611	32,345
Swansea	300,606	212,945	20,689	28,044
Port Talbot	123,458	233,790	14,405	37,673
Total	1,702,809	1,696,071	253,329	302,363

Principal Countries of Destination of Welsh Coal.

The total quantity of coal exported from South Wales, by principal countries, during September, 1915 and 1916, was as follows:

Countries.	September—		Countries.	September—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
France and Algeria	806,935	1,043,942	Spain	84,851	144,222
Italy	270,022	278,374	Portugal	70,581	55,289
Scandinavia and the Netherlands	15,884	25,155	South America	134,401	24,803

Exports of Patent Fuel.

The September, 1916, exports of patent fuel (briquets) from Swansea amounted to 63,053 tons, of which 38,719 tons went to France, 14,473 tons to Italy, 6,152 tons to Algeria, and 3,709 tons to Spain. As compared with the same month in 1915, these exports show an increase of 1,253 tons.

Port Talbot's exports of patent fuel amounted to only 3,494 tons in September, 1915, and to 18,023 tons in September, 1916, of which 10,987 tons were shipped to France, 4,611 tons to Italy, 1,700 tons to Morocco, and 725 tons to Venezuela.

The patent fuel industry of South Wales is centered in Swansea. The following table shows the exports of this product from the four principal ports during September, 1915 and 1916:

Ports.	September—		Ports.	September—	
	1915	1916		1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Swansea	61,800	63,053	Newport	5,762	5,002
Port Talbot	3,494	18,023			
Cardiff	33,643	18,562	Total	104,699	99,440

Nationality of Vessels Employed in the Coal Trade.

Out of a total of 2,297 vessels cleared from ports of the United Kingdom with cargoes of coal for foreign ports in September, 1916, only 516, or 22½ per cent, represented ships flying the British flag, as compared with 741 British vessels, or 25½ per cent, in September, 1915. Of the 318 vessels loaded with cargoes of coal which cleared from Swansea and Port Talbot in September, 1916, only 70 vessels were British, as compared with 63 British and 196 foreign vessels in September, 1915.

In September of this year one American schooner cleared from Port Talbot with a cargo of coal for Venezuela.

Kind of Coal and Value Exported.

During the nine months ended September 30, 1916, the quantity in long tons and value of the different kinds of coal exported from Swansea and Port Talbot were as follows:

Kind of coal.	Nine months ended Sept. 30, 1916.			
	From Swansea.		From Port Talbot.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Anthracite:				
Small.....	503,133	\$3,233,000	131,281	\$555,600
Large.....	744,270	4,920,600	85,619	351,510
Total anthracite.....	1,233,403	8,162,600	189,900	907,110
Steam:				
Small.....	297,370	1,198,360	341,583	1,330,400
Through and through.....	411,859	1,932,470	648,640	3,284,120
Large.....	229,872	1,567,330	291,697	1,941,400
Total steam.....	933,101	4,698,160	1,281,920	6,585,920
Other sorts:				
Small.....	5,193	25,700	25,088	117,910
Through and through.....	1,504	8,440	19,551	112,060
Large.....	917	6,230	15,887	97,820
Total other sorts.....	7,614	40,370	60,526	328,420
Grand total.....	2,290,118	12,901,220	1,532,346	7,821,450

Nine Months' Exports of Coal from the United Kingdom—Production.

In the nine months ended September 30, 1914, 48,116,349 tons of coal valued at \$158,845,450 were exported from the United Kingdom to foreign countries as against 33,414,212 tons valued at \$133,657,030, and 29,243,377 tons, valued at \$169,086,340, in the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1916. The coal exports during the first three quarters of 1916 showed a decrease in quantity of 18,872,972 tons and an increase in value of \$10,240,890 as compared with the corresponding period of 1914; but as compared with the first nine months of 1915, there was a decrease in quantity of 4,170,835 tons and an increase in value of \$35,429,310. The average value per long ton of coal exported from the United Kingdom in the first nine months of 1914 was \$3.30. In the corresponding period of 1915 the price had risen to \$4 per ton, and in 1916 to \$5.77.

In 1913 the production of coal in the United Kingdom amounted to about 287 million long tons, of which approximately 98 million tons were exported and 189 million tons were retained for home con-

sumption. The production in 1916 will probably not exceed 255 million tons or 32 million tons less than in 1913; while the quantity exported will approximate 54 million tons, or 44 million tons less than during the year immediately preceding the war. The domestic consumption this year may exceed 200 million tons as compared with 189 million tons in 1913. Of the 55 million tons available for export in 1916 the allies of Great Britain and British possessions will take about 40 million tons, leaving only 15 million tons for the foreign bunker trade at British ports and for export to neutral countries. But the bunker trade amounts to about 14 million tons per annum, so that the balance available for export to neutral countries will be small.

Shipments of Coal to Certain Markets.

Previous to the war the United Kingdom was exporting 6,000,000 tons of cargo coal per month. In September, 1916, shipments of coal abroad amounted to only 3,444,180 tons. In 1913 approximately 600,000 tons were shipped monthly to South America, while in September of this year the exports to South America amounted to only 32,000 tons. Scandinavia, the Netherlands, and Spain took monthly about 1,625,000 tons previous to the war, as against only 811,900 tons in September, 1916. British coal exports to France and Algeria averaged in 1913 about 1,200,000 tons per month. In September, 1916, shipments to these countries amounted to 1,785,000 tons. Italy, on the other hand, while receiving more coal from the United Kingdom than it did earlier in the war, is still obtaining about 220,000 tons less per month than previous to the war.

The Tin-plate Industry.

At one time the United States was the principal market for British tin plates, but with the building up of the industry in the United States the American purchases considerably decreased. In 1862 the exports of Welsh tin plate to the United States amounted to 29,541 tons as against 20,480 tons to all other countries; in 1882 exports to the United States had increased to 214,552 tons and to all other countries 50,464 tons. In 1889 the United States purchased 336,920 tons and all other countries only 93,931 tons. The Welsh tin-plate business with the United States between 1862 and 1889 increased 307,379 tons as against 73,451 tons for all other countries.

In 1913 the total output of tin plate in the United Kingdom was 823,500 tons, of which the United States took only 21,516 tons and all other countries 544,756 tons, as compared with a total production of 586,250 tons in 1891, of which 325,643 tons went to the United States and 123,236 tons to all other countries.

Effect of War on the Tin-plate Industry.

Since the outbreak of war the tin-plate industry of Wales has declined rapidly. At the end of September, 1916, there were 315 tin-plate mills in operation in the United Kingdom, a decrease of 92 mills since September, 1915, and a decline of 266 mills from the number in operation just previous to the outbreak of war. These mills are not idle for lack of demand for tin plate, but for the reason that the manufacture is prohibited except in connection with Government contracts.

According to the Board of Trade returns there was a falling off in the export of tin plates amounting to 67,229 tons for the nine months ended September 30, 1916, as compared with the corresponding period of 1914. The total exports during 1916 will probably not exceed 340,000 tons as compared with 566,272 tons in 1913. With the decline of exports in British tin plates, the exports of American plates have rapidly risen.

The exports of tin plates from the United States in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, according to official American statistics, amounted to 516,257,473 pounds, as compared with 179,221,644 pounds in 1915 and 105,899,762 pounds in 1914. Although the exports of American tin plate have shown this remarkable increase since the outbreak of war, yet they are still less than the British exports, notwithstanding the restrictions placed on the manufacture and exportation of tin plate by the British Government.

"KROONLAND'S" CHIEF QUARTERMASTER RECEIVES MEDAL.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has received a communication through the State Department from Lieut. Col. F. W. Panzera, commandant, Aliens' Detention Camp, Knockaloe, Isle of Man, telling of the presentation of a medal awarded by the Congress of the United States to Emil Bohme in connection with services which he rendered as chief quartermaster of the American steamship *Kroonland* in assisting in the rescue of 89 persons from the burning steamer *Volturmo* in the North Atlantic Ocean on October 9, 1913.

The presentation ceremony, which was conducted by Commander Lieut. Col. Panzera, took place in the presence of about 500 detained aliens, and a musical program was given in connection with the presentation.

The department has so far been unable to locate the following members of the crew of the *Kroonland*, for whom medals are still being held in Secretary Redfield's office: Frank Von Hymmen, Gerard Frans Borrenberg, Henri Guelinckx, Desire Auguste Coopman, Petrus Stobbelaar, Gustav Ebling, Heike M. P. Janssen, Franz Quednau, Heinrich Schaub, Ernst Bencke, Leon Coppens, Alphons Roll, and August Frederick Reckzugel.

NEW PULP MILL FOR FINLAND.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 30.]

The British consul at Helsingfors, Finland, reports that a timber company is erecting a large pulp mill at Karihaara, at the mouth of the Kemi River. This company owns large tracts of forest land in northern Finland and is already running three sawmills. In order to utilize the large quantity of pulp wood obtained annually from its forests the company is now constructing, near the Karihaara sawmill, a sulphite pulp mill, which is being built for an output of 30,000 tons per year, but land has been reserved so that the output can be doubled if necessary. The buildings are to be constructed of brick and ferroconcrete. The machinery has already been ordered from Finnish and foreign firms.

GROWTH OF PHILIPPINE LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE.

The substantial growth of the lighthouse service of the Philippine Islands that has taken place within a few years is important to American shipping. The changes are reviewed by the United States Bureau of Lighthouses, which states, however, that the system is yet far from complete, and that with the gradual development of the country, the importance of all sailing routes increases, and the demand for additional lights now exceeds what may be expected through the expenditure of available funds.

Upon the American occupation of the Philippines 29 lights of all classes were in serviceable condition, and of these only a few were in actual operation, many of them having been extinguished as a result of developments prior to our arrival. A number of stations had been damaged or partly destroyed, and the rest had been neglected until they were sadly in need of repairs.

Temporary repairs were made to a number of structures, some additional lamps relighted, and additional minor lights installed by Navy officials, so that upon the organization of the Bureau of Coast Guard and Transportation, under whose charge the construction, operation, and maintenance of lighthouses were placed, there were 55 lights in operation, 15 of which were flashing lights of various sizes from first to sixth order and the balance small lens lanterns, etc., showing fixed lights. A vigorous campaign of construction was at once inaugurated.

Vessels May Now Safely Navigate All Principal Routes.

At present there are 151 lights of all classes, including 4 first-order flashing, 1 second-order, 9 third-order, 8 fourth-order, and 12 sixth-order flashing, 20 sixth-order occulting, 9 automatic flashing acetylene, 2 electric, and 85 minor fixed lights, by the aid of which vessels may now safely navigate all the principal routes and channels and enter all the principal ports and harbors.

During recent years it has been the policy to use only permanent materials in the construction of new stations, which is naturally expensive in first cost, and to rebuild all timber structures in permanent materials when they reach the limit of economical repair, a policy which has resulted in the installation of fewer lights per annum, but which has rapidly reduced the cost of maintaining the system.

An idea of the problem of lighting the Philippine Islands may be conveyed by the statement that the archipelago measures more than 1,000 nautical miles from north to south, and more than 600 from east to west; that the total coast line is approximately equal to that of the combined Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts of the United States, exclusive of Alaska; and that there are more than 5,000 nautical miles of coasting routes and tortuous channels regularly navigated by vessels trading among some 300 separate ports.

Mounting of Delicate Flashing Apparatus.

The more delicate flashing apparatus is mounted chiefly in reinforced concrete towers, measuring 101 feet from base to focal plane, equipped with third-order prismatic lenses revolving on mercury floats, which, by the refraction and reflection of rays from incandescent oil-vapor lamps, produce flashes of approximately 100,000

candlepower, clearly visible under ordinary conditions at the limit of their geographical ranges of about 25 nautical miles.

In the design of lighthouse towers, stability is required against typhoon winds which have reached a recorded velocity of 120 miles per hour, so that heavy tower bases are necessary.

In addition to the lights mentioned, 171 buoys, beacons, and day marks, for the assistance of the mariner in entering ports, navigating narrow channels, etc., have been provided, and the number is being constantly increased.

BRITISH ORDER RELATES TO STEEL SUPPLIES.

[Vice Consul Richard Westacott, London, England, Nov. 28.]

An order has been issued by the Ministry of Munitions of War concerning steel bought and sold or manufactured in this country, and also steel imported from any other country. A clause of the order shows that the regulation affects all imported steel made by the open-hearth or Bessemer process, in so far as its distribution on arrival in the United Kingdom is concerned. The chief provisions of the order are:

No order for steel made by the open-hearth or Bessemer process (other than shell-discard quality) shall be accepted for manufacture, and no such steel shall be manufactured unless the purpose for which the steel is required has been approved.

Full and accurate returns shall be made weekly to the Director of Steel Production, Ministry of Munitions, Whitehall Place, London, SW., in the form provided by him, showing particulars of all steel manufactured and delivered.

No special form of certificate to accompany an order is required, but the following particulars must accompany all orders: Government contract reference and number, with purpose, or Ministry of Munitions permit reference and number, with priority classification and purpose and a declaration that the whole of the material specified is required for the purpose covered by the references and classification.

For the purpose of this order the term "manufacture" shall include casting, rolling, or rerolling, forging, and pressing, and the term "steel" shall include all forms of open-hearth or Bessemer steel made in this country or imported, whether new, second hand, defective, or scrap for rerolling.

Architectural Competition for Australian Parliament House.

Consul General J. I. Brittain reports from Sydney, Australia, that he is in receipt of a communication from Walter Burley Griffin, Esq., federal capital director of design and construction, to the effect that the architectural competition in connection with designs for the Federal Parliament House, at the new capital city of Canberra, has been extended from January 31 to April 30, 1917. [Reference to this project was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 20.]

Proposed Lace Factory in Argentina.

In Salta, the northernmost Province of Argentina, a native plant, known as "guato," is said to furnish a fiber well adapted to the manufacture of lace. The River Plate Review says that a North American company has applied to the Government of Salta for certain facilities for the installation of a lace factory in the city of Salta, the factory to use the guato as raw material.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Boats, No. 3895.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Boston, Mass., until January 2, 1917, for building and delivering one sailboat and one motor boat for Light Vessel No. 99. Further information may be had on application to above-named office.

Telephone cable, No. 3896.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 15, 1917, for a telephone cable connection between the Pacific Coast Torpedo Station, Keyport, Wash., and the Puget Sound Navy Yard; also an electric-power transmission line from the Olympic Power Co.'s pole line to the radio building at the above-named torpedo station. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Sea wall repair, No. 3897.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, room 802, Army Building, 39 Whitehall Street, New York, N. Y., until December 28, 1916, for construction of timber groins and repair of sea wall near southern boundary of Sandy Hook Reservation, N. J. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Condemned property, No. 3898.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Key West, Fla., until January 25, 1917, for sale, by the Lighthouse Service, of condemned property consisting of 1,203 pounds of scrap brass, 10 pounds of copper, and 1,875 pounds of old manila rope. There is also other condemned property consisting of old iron chains, etc., to be sold at public auction. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Steamer repairs, No. 3899.—Sealed proposals will be received at 202 Burke Building, Seattle, Wash., until December 23, 1916, for repairs to the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey steamers *Patterson* and *Explorer*. Forms of proposals and information may be had on application to the commanding officers of the vessels at 202 Burke Building, Seattle, Wash.

Storehouses, No. 3900.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., until January 15, 1917, for two soda storehouses and four cotton storehouses having concrete floors and foundations, steel framing, and corrugated galvanized sheet steel roofs and sides, at the Naval Proving Ground, Indian Head, Md. Drawings and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Washington, D. C.

Medical supplies, No. 3901.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until December 22, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at Warehouse "D," Transport Dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., white duck operating coats, fluid extract of ipecac, irrigator, hypodermic tablets, vaccine, potassium dichromate tablets, green soap, sonolin, etc. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Docking vessel, No. 3902.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg., until January 5, 1917, for docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing Columbia River Light Vessel No. 88. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Drydock construction, No. 3903.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 29, 1917, for a concrete dry dock at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Plans and specifications may be had on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Steel, iron, and brass work, No. 3904.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., until January 19, 1917, for furnishing and delivering at the penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., reinforcing material and structural and miscellaneous steel, iron, and brass work for cell blocks in the east main cell wing, in accordance with the specifications, copies of which may be had on application to the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.	do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, A mherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon ..	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Wilrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

Argentine Ships Transferred to Uruguay.

Sixty-two ships of between 50 and 1,000 tons have transferred from the Argentine flag to the Uruguayan during the present year, according to a note in a recent issue of the River Plate Review.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South-
ern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency	23290	Machinery, artificial leather making	23295
Braid, cotton	23296	Machinery, dairy	23295
Brass in sheets	23289	Machinery, farm	23295
Corks	23297	Machinery, paper making	23295
Cotton piece goods	23288	Novelties	23288, 23294, 23296
Cups, aluminum	23296	Optical goods	23297
Engines, crude oil and kerosene	23293	Pens	23297
Gloves	23297	Perfumery	23296
Glassware	23296	Ribbons	23296
Handkerchiefs	23296	Shoes	23292
Hosiery	23296	Stationery	23288, 23296
Iron in sheets	23289	Staves	23291
Jewelry	23296	Tin in sheets	23296
Knives	23297	Toilet articles	23296
Lace	23295	Tools	23295
Leather goods	23297	Watches	23297
Hardware	23288		

23288.†—A Bolivian merchant, who is now in the United States, desires to represent American manufacturers of cotton goods, white and gray shirts, novelties, tools and hardware, and school stationery in South and Central America. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23289.*—A man in Spain is in the market for polished and unpolished brass, tin, and iron in sheets. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

23290.†—A firm in Norway, with branch offices in Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and the United States, would like to form commercial relations with American manufacturers who desire to extend their business in the countries named. Further information may be had on application to the firm's New York office.

23291.†—A firm in Spain wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of oak staves. Quotations are desired.

23292.*—A man in Switzerland would like to represent American manufacturers of shoes. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23293.†—An Argentina business man is expected to arrive in the United States about the 1st of January for the purpose of forming commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of farm implements and machinery, tractors, crude oil and kerosene engines, dairy machinery, etc.

23294.*—A man in Spain is in the market for pins, safety pins, hair pins, buttons, hooks and eyes, buttonhooks, brooches, and thimbles of aluminum, copper, brass, iron, bone, or ivory. Catalogues, samples, and price lists are desired. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

23295.*—A firm in Brazil wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of cardboard and other paper-making machinery and machinery for making artificial leather. Catalogues and price lists are desired. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Correspondence in Portuguese. Reference.

23296.*—A firm in Brazil is in the market for perfumery, combs, hairpins, toilet articles, jewelry, novelties, hosiery, stationery, cotton and silk laces, and silk ribbons, handkerchiefs, cotton braid, glassware, and aluminum cups. Correspondence in Portuguese. Reference.

23297.†—A man in Siberia would like to obtain an agency for the sale of corks, penknives, leather goods, pens, watches, kid gloves, and optical and opera glasses. A cash guaranty is offered. Correspondence in English.

PRINCE OF WALES COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 297 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, December 19 1916

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GROWTH OF COTTON KNIT GOODS INDUSTRY IN CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Nov. 11.]

The firm of G. Corradi & Cia., of Santiago, in a letter dated August 25, 1916, addressed to the Sociedad de Fomento Fabril, discusses at some length the effect of the European war on the Chilean imports of cotton socks, stockings, drawers, and shirts. It gives the collective imports of these articles into Chile for the past five years, as follows: Nineteen hundred and eleven, \$986,288 (United States currency); 1912, \$965,837; 1913, \$769,048; 1914, \$557,227; and 1915, \$211,913.

The production of its own factory in 1915 is given as follows: Shirts, 27,000 dozen; drawers, 4,500 dozen; stockings, 62,500 dozen; socks, 135,200 dozen; miscellaneous, 1,000 dozen; with a gross value of \$2,500,000 Chilean paper pesos (equal at 9 pence to about \$450,000 United States currency).

The production of the Corradi factory from January to July, 1916, was: Shirts, 21,500 dozen; drawers, 5,600 dozen; stockings, 28,700 dozen; socks, 86,700 dozen; and miscellaneous, 400 dozen. The value of its product for the first six months of 1916 is stated as \$2,000,000 Chilean paper pesos (equal at 10 pence to about \$400,000 United States currency). It states that its factory is employing about 500 workers.

The letter adds that there is another important factory in this line in Chile—the Fabrica Victoria de Puente Alto—and several smaller establishments.

PRINCE RUPERT DRY DOCK IN OPERATION.

[Consul George M. Hanson, Prince Rupert, Canada, Dec. 6.]

The dry dock at Prince Rupert, part of the equipment of the Grand Trunk Pacific system, and completed under the supervision of American engineers at a cost of \$2,500,000, has been in use for the past six weeks. The first big ship to test the capacity of the dry dock was the 16,000-ton transport *Orbita*, built for the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. The second ship to use the dry dock was the *Otranto*, formerly of the Orient Line.

VISIT TO RUSSIA OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATE.

It is announced by the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce in New York that its executive secretary, E. C. Porter, will sail for Russia early in January. Mr. Porter will confer upon important matters relating to Russian-American trade with the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow. He will remain in Russia about two months, visiting the important industrial centers, such as Petrograd, Moscow, Kief, Kharkof, Odessa, and Tiflis.

Among the matters that will be taken up in cooperation with the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow are the following: (1) The possible removal of some of the present restrictions on the exportation of Russian raw materials to the United States; (2) the possibility of devising a plan whereby a certain amount of private freight can be moved forward into the Russian market even under the present restrictions; (3) the inauguration of a permanent exhibition of American manufactured goods in Moscow (the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce has already taken this matter up with Russian business interests and with the Russian Government); (4) the consideration of preliminary plans for sending Russian trade commissioners to the United States and American trade commissioners to Russia.

FLOODS ON THE MAGDALENA AND CAUCA RIVERS.

[Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Colombia, Nov. 28.]

The unusually heavy rains at the end of the Colombian rainy season created flood conditions in the valleys of the Magdalena and Cauca Rivers which have not been equalled in many years. The cities of Magangue and Calamar (13,000 and 6,000 population, respectively) have been under six or more feet of water, and many small villages were inundated. It is reported that many lives were lost by drowning and starvation, but the interruption of facilities for communication prevented confirmation of this report. It is certain, however, that the loss of domestic animals, especially cattle, has been large.

The river-transportation companies placed their steamboats at the service of the refugees, and food and clothing were purchased with funds obtained by popular subscriptions and sent to the inundated districts.

The dry season commenced suddenly, and the high waters began to subside slowly.

OIL DRILLING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

[Commercial Agent J. F. Boomer, Manila, Nov. 2.]

The director of public works has recently made an inspection of the oil fields on what is known as the Bundo Peninsula, in Tayabas, with a view to determining the most feasible way to get drilling machinery and other apparatus to the fields. He reports that a way has been found, and that the bureau is prepared to undertake drilling operations in that region on brief notice. The inspection was made pursuant to a project now in the Philippine Congress to make careful surveys of the oil and mineral fields of the islands, with a view to conserving them to the Government.

CHANGES IN PHILIPPINE TRADE FOR SEPTEMBER.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Nov. 1.]

The imports into the Philippine Islands for September, 1916, were less by \$1,833,572 than for the same month in 1915, but the exports exceeded in value those of September, 1915, by \$2,952,239. This made the total September, 1916, trade greater by \$1,118,667 than for the same period in 1915. The general trend of the commerce of the Philippines for the current year has been toward a steady increase in exports and a decline in imports.

There was a decrease of \$17,605 in the imports of rice, the staple food for the islands. This is accounted for partly by better crops and to some extent by the substitution of other foods for rice, such as locally grown corn. Another foodstuff that showed even a greater decline for the month was wheat flour, from \$194,512 in 1915 to \$47,337 in 1916. The periods of time compared are too short to indicate whether the discrepancy is more than the result of the accident of the arrival of cargoes. It is probably accounted for chiefly in this way, as a reference to the figures for August, 1915, and those for August, 1916, shows that the imports of flour for the former month were less in value than those for the latter month by a considerable margin.

For a series of months, however, the decline of imports for 1916 is accounted for in those other than foodstuffs for the most part. Thus in the case of cotton and manufactures the imports for September, 1916, (\$736,184) were less than half those for the same month of 1915 (\$1,654,332); and the imports of the same commodity for August, 1916, were less by a substantial margin than those for August, 1915. So, also, with iron and steel and manufactures of same. The imports of this commodity for September, 1916 (\$363,976), were little more than half what they were for September, 1915 (\$559,805), and a reference to the figures for August discloses the same proportion of decline.

A slight increase is noted in the imports of automobiles and parts for September, 1916, as compared with the same month of 1915. The figures are: September, 1915, \$62,114; 1916, \$92,408.

In the export trade for the month the hemp shipments account for nearly \$800,000 of the gain compared with 1915. The exports of hemp were valued at \$1,906,084, against \$1,173,353 in September, 1915. The gain in coconut oil was nearly fivefold, that of copra nearly 100 per cent, and that of sugar about 80 per cent. The exports of brown sugar were valued at \$1,868,161, compared with \$1,033,056 for September, 1915.

New Brunswick Town Installs a Diesel Engine.

Consul E. Verne Richardson reports from Moncton, New Brunswick, that the town of Chatham, one of the busiest of the lumber-shipping points in the Province, is installing a 200-horsepower semi-Diesel oil-burning engine to provide power for the new municipal electric lighting station, built to replace one destroyed by fire earlier in the year. Light from the new system is expected to be available by the end of the year.

FIELD FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN COSTA RICA.

[Vice Consul Ulysses S. Fitzpatrick, San José, Nov. 28.]

An import company of this city has awarded a contract for the installation of a motor-generator set for charging storage batteries. Electricity for this purpose is obtainable at a low cost by means of modern hydroelectric plants. Cheap operation of electric vehicles is especially significant, when it is considered that gasoline sells for about 45 cents United States currency a gallon in San José.

No electric passenger vehicles have been used in Costa Rica, as heretofore no firm has been prepared to charge batteries. No official statistics are available, but a fair estimate of the number of motor vehicles in the entire country gives 70 automobiles and 15 motor trucks. The most popular cars are those costing \$1,000 to \$1,800 f. o. b. New York.

Only a few miles of road are now fit for this kind of transportation and the market seems limited, but the Government is building roads and has purchased more road-building machinery with the intention of greater activity in this direction. A road connecting San José and Heredia is now under way and will be finished this dry season. Heredia is about 7 miles west of San José.

Market Expected to Grow Rapidly.

The market for electric vehicles will increase rapidly when Costa Rica builds better roads. Many persons here are able to buy electric vehicles and probably would buy if the roads were better. The average mileage obtainable from one battery charge per day is sufficient for the ordinary haulage or delivery service in Costa Rica. The electric passenger vehicle with modern batteries having a capacity up to 140 miles on a single charge and a speed up to 35 miles an hour would be especially suited to this country, where the principal cities are closely grouped on the high table-land.

Costa Rica is principally an agricultural and mining country. Motor trucks are now used by the Government and a few of the largest importing houses. Most of the heavy traffic is moved in oxcarts and small one-horse carts. The cost of keeping horses or mules is very high, and for that reason most of the heavy traffic is moved by oxcarts.

[The name and address of the firm that has installed the motor-generator set may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82834.]

BULGARIAN CROP CONDITIONS.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, Jr., Sofia, Oct. 18.]

The monthly bulletin of the Central Meteorological Station, reviewing the condition of the Bulgarian crops at the end of September, stated that the corn had considerably improved in many places and the output is estimated as an average crop. The favorable weather had a good effect on the potatoes and the crop as a whole was considered satisfactory. The rice crop in general was very good and a yield of about 2,230 pounds per acre was expected in the Kotchani district. This year's vintage will be more abundant than last year's, and the harvest began a week earlier than usual.

JAPANESE AND AMERICAN KNITTING YARNS IN HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 26.]

The cutting into the American trade in knitting yarns by Japanese low-count yarns that was forecast in a report from the Hongkong consulate general published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 29, 1915 (which also described the trade in some detail), has occurred; and while the import of knitting yarn into Hongkong on the whole has increased very greatly, the proportion of yarns supplied by the United States is not more than one-third of the whole. The most reliable estimates obtainable indicate that the total value of knitting yarns now coming into this market is about \$600,000 gold per year, and of this total the United States is not furnishing much if any more than \$200,000 in value.

Nearly one-half of the total amount imported from the United States is used by one factory. The remainder is divided among the other factories, which use it in the proportion of about one-fifth American to four-fifths cheap Japanese yarn. As indicated in the earlier report alluded to, the goods manufactured from Japanese yarns are not so satisfactory in looks, wearing quality, or retention of shape as are those made from American yarn; but they serve the purpose of a very cheap market, and the great increase in the use of such goods in Hongkong during the past year has been almost altogether in the lower and cheaper grades.

The matter of the comparative cost of Japanese and American yarn is of special importance to the factories exporting their goods to the Philippines, where a goodly share of the product of all the factories now goes. In a general way, the articles made from American yarn are of better grade and they appeal to a better class of trade; but at the same time the competition between the factories is very keen, and the mills using American yarn are at a disadvantage even though they use American yarn for goods sold in American territory. The use of Japanese yarn is altogether a matter of price; for while Japanese yarn manufacturers have a more effective sales system, American yarn is much preferred by all factories if it can be had at not too great a margin of increased cost over the Japanese product.

NEW RECORD ESTABLISHED FOR LAKE TROUT.

The take of eggs of the lake trout during this season is the largest in the history of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. The lake trout is the most valuable food fish of the entire Great Lakes Basin and supports a commercial fishery from Minnesota to New York. Egg collections at all the stations establish new records and total more than 107,000,000, exceeding by 30 per cent the best previous record.

The great bulk of the work falls on the Northville (Mich.) hatchery and its auxiliaries, to which 82,000,000 eggs are to be credited, mostly from Lake Michigan. The Duluth hatchery reports a highly creditable season, and the egg take at the Cape Vincent (N. Y.) hatchery, while comparatively small, is significant as indicating the reestablishment of the lake trout in Lake Ontario.

MANUFACTURE OF CHALK IN GERMANY.

[Vice Consul Francis R. Stewart, Hamburg, Nov. 2.]

Calcium carbonate, CaCO_3 , is found in a natural state in the form of marble, chalk, and limestone, and is artificially obtained by precipitating calcium-salt solutions by means of carbon dioxide or carbonates.

In the manufacture of chalk it is important to produce a light-weight material. It is believed that the German manufacturers have been most successful in this respect and have produced an article 50 per cent lighter than the others. It is also important to eliminate all trace of metal. In the process 100 parts of the raw material are dissolved in 300 parts of hydrochloric acid (25 per cent) and 300 parts of water. Impurities such as chloride of calcium, ferro-chloride, and magnesium chloride, contained in this solution, are removed by adding a thin mixture of chloride of lime and water to the hydrochloric liquid until the odor of the chlorine can be noticed. After the composition has been under the influence of the chlorine for several hours double the quantity of water is added and the mass is heated and stirred, milk of lime being poured in until a thorough alkaline reaction is obtained. The combinations of iron and manganese are precipitated completely as well as the larger portion of the magnesium chloride. A small quantity of the liquid should be filtered to see, if it is entirely free of iron.

Settling Completed Before Solution is Filtered.

The iron and manganese having been precipitated and removed, some hours should elapse in which to complete the settling before the solution is filtered and the specific weight and content of calcium chloride (CaCl_2) ascertained. The specific weight and the quantity of calcium chloride contained in the solution show the amount of carbonate of sodium (sodium) to be added. For 100 parts of dissolved calcium chloride (CaCl_2) about 260 parts of crystallized carbonate of sodium are used.

A small quantity of hydrochloric acid is then added and the mixture heated to 60 or 70 degrees Centigrade. At last it is precipitated while stirred with a filtered solution of about 300 parts of crystallized carbonate of sodium in three or four times the quantity of water. The liquid must show an alkaline reaction when the precipitation is completed.

After several hours the product is washed, filtered, and then drained, dried, and pulverized. Some influence is exercised by the temperature during precipitation. At an ordinary temperature calcium carbonate is precipitated in an amorphous voluminous form, which is difficult to wash and which becomes solid after a time. On the other hand, the calcium carbonate is immediately precipitated in a crystallized state when the solution is brought to the boiling point.

Prices Steadily Increasing—Imports and Exports.

Prices are steadily increasing, and at present are 35 to 36 marks per 100 kilos (\$8.33 to \$8.57 per 220 pounds), compared with 22.75 to 23.25 marks (\$5.42 to \$5.53) in 1911 for the same quantity.

It is not possible to give the exact quantity of this chalk that is manufactured in Germany, as the official statistics include it with white chalk and finely powdered chalk in any form. However, it

is said that whereas the figures given for imports include several forms of chalk, those for exports include principally precipitated chalk.

The import and export figures for 1912, 1913, and the first six months of 1914 are the latest obtainable. These, with values given in marks of \$0.2382 each, are:

Totals and figures by countries.	1912	1913	Six months of 1914.
IMPORTS.			
Total quantity.....tons.	39,111	35,459.5	18,586.6
Total value.....marks.	1,152,000	1,046,000	483,000
Belgium.....tons.	10,668.4	11,643.1	6,038.1
France.....do.	17,421.2	14,470.7	4,965.1
Sweden.....do.	7,723.6	6,672	4,429.5
EXPORTS.			
Total quantity.....tons.	10,079.7	12,228.7	5,799.6
Total value.....marks.	462,000	559,000	255,000
Austria-Hungary.....tons.	4,794	6,539.6	3,007.1
Russia.....do.	990.4	740.9	479.1
Chile.....do.			299.8

[A list of manufacturers of precipitated chalk in Germany may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82487.]

RAILWAY MATERIAL FOR BRITISH WEST INDIES.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Dec. 11.]

The Canadian trade commissioner in Bridgetown, Barbados, reports that the Barbados Light Railway was closed to traffic on June 28 last, following an adverse report by the Government engineer as to its condition. The report showed that the road required the following new material, and, as this can not be obtained at present in Europe, an American company that would probably have the material in stock was recommended. The new material required is as follows: One hundred and eighty tons of flat-bottom rail, 4 tons of angle fish-plates, 18½ hundredweight (of 112 pounds) of fish bolts and nuts, 3 tons of dog spikes, 28,000 greenheart sleepers. The type of rail is known in the railway office as Carnegie section, 45 pounds to the yard.

The repairs to the road will probably be undertaken at an early date, either by the railway company or by the Government, which may hereafter operate the road in the interest of the colony.

AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TURKISH STUDENTS.

[Consul General G. Ble Ravndal, Constantinople, Turkey, Nov. 3.]

It has become a popular practice on the part of German municipalities to appropriate funds for the maintenance of one or more Turkish students for a given number of years at some German institution of higher education. These scholarships voted by city councils in Germany to Turkish students already number several hundreds, but up to now the commission (Stipendienausschusz) sitting in Constantinople for the purpose of selecting suitable candidates has accepted but 226 applications.

It is suggested that chambers of commerce in America consider the advisability of voting stipends for similar purposes.

CHINESE RAILWAY DEVELOPS NAVIGATION INTERESTS.

[Translation from Harbinsky Vestnik, official newspaper of Chinese Eastern Railway in North Manchuria, forwarded by Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, China, Nov. 9.]

During the current year the Amur shipowners have organized an association called the Amur Fleet and have monopolized almost all the steamer transportation on the Amur and Sungari Rivers. The Department of Steamships of the Chinese Eastern Railway leased to the Amur Fleet two of its steamers, the *Fifth* and the *Twelfth*, and eight barges for the navigation season. The department also undertook the transportation of the Amur Fleet's freights on the Sungari and Amur Rivers on its own ships and barges. Such cargoes transported during the navigating season amounted to 100,000 poods (pood = 36.1128 pounds) to Blagovestchensk, 150,000 poods to Habarovsk, and 50,000 poods to Iman. There are still 100,000 poods to be transported to Habarovsk. There were 165,000 poods of freight carried to Blagovestchensk, Ushakovo, and Ignasheno for other shippers, in three trips.

Work Under Unfavorable Conditions.

The department works intensively, navigating all the arms open for navigation and using all the ships and barges available. The work during this autumn was done under very unfavorable conditions because of shallow water at the bars. For instance, it is reported by the Chinese Customs that at Sansing Bar the water has fallen to 3 feet, which has caused the delay of shipments and extra expenses for reloading. On account of the shallow water it is necessary to ship goods in a large number of barges only half-loaded. The steamer *Fourth*, which left for Habarovsk on September 7, was forced to pull five barges carrying only 20,000 poods each. At Sansing the cargoes were reloaded into three barges, with which the steamer went to Habarovsk. The cost of taking these extra barges to Sansing and back must be added to the extra charges. The reason for the present condition is the low water in the Nonni River, the main tributary of the Sungari, which furnishes most of the Sungari water. The spring and summer water levels were favorable.

Exclusive of the cargoes mentioned, the fleet carried more than 3,000,000 poods of export freight for shipments from Harbin to Egersheld. The decrease of such freights (against 5,500,000 last year) was due to last year's crop failure of beans. The ships also carried local freights of lumber, wheat, salt; in all, up to August 1 more than 4,500,000 poods have been carried. The transportation of beans this year ended August 1.

Passenger Traffic and Income.

The passenger traffic on the arm Kirin-Ioshagou amounted to 8,972 passengers, and on the Petune-Fugdin 9,602 passengers.

The total gross income up to August 1 was 235,931 rubles (\$121,504), with 161,285 rubles (\$83,062) expenses for repairs, etc. The net profit, excluding the cost of repairs, upkeep, etc., was 74,646 rubles (\$38,443).

The ships of the department during this year showed an exceptional mobility, going on the Amur as far as Khabarovsk, Blagovestchensk, Ushakovo, and even Ignasheno. The low water in the

Ussuri made it impossible to reach Iman, and the goods shipped to that point were delivered at Habarovsk.

If, added to all the foregoing, it is mentioned that during the whole navigation there has not been a single accident, we may decide that the navigation has been favorable.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guana, Venezuela...	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	120 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listee, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.	...do....	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon..	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	...do....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

PORTO RICO'S FIRST AMERICAN INTERISLAND SERVICE.

[Harwood Hull, correspondent, San Juan, Dec. 6.]

The Bull-Insular Line to-day started steamer service between San Juan and Santo Domingo and Haiti, establishing the first American steamship service between Porto Rico and the neighboring island. The *S. S. Marina*, with approximately 800 tons cargo capacity and accommodations for 60 first-class passengers, will be kept in this interisland service, according to an announcement of the steamship company. The schedule of sailings has not yet been announced but will be made known within a few days.

This service to Santo Domingo and Haiti is in addition to a direct service from New York to St. Thomas and St. Croix recently established by the same company. At present one ship a month is being dispatched from New York to the Danish West Indies, this steamer later calling at Porto Rican ports before returning to New York. This is said to be the first attempt to establish an American line between New York and the Danish Islands in more than 40 years.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**COSTA RICA.**

[Consul Benjamin F. Chase, San José, Dec. 2.]

Construction of Central American Court of Justice Building.

According to the local press, work will begin within a few days on the new building for the Central American Court of Justice at San José, donated by Mr. Andrew Carnegie. This is to take the place of the palace at Cartago destroyed by the earthquake in 1910.

The Costa Rican Government has furnished the land for the building and will have supervision over the construction work. The contract for the complete structure has been let to Mr. Wenceslas de la Guardia, 202 Riverside Drive, New York City, N. Y. The local representative of the contractor is Mr. Roberto Smythe, San José. It is understood that the equipment of the English Construction Co., now in use in building the Government post and telegraph office at San José, will be utilized in building this new palace.

ECUADOR.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, Nov. 17.]

Interurban Electric Line for Quito.

The Ecuadorian Congress has authorized the municipality of Quito to grant an exclusive concession for a period of 30 years to any person or company who will construct an electric railway line from the capital to any town or towns of the canton. The concessionaire must agree to complete the construction of the railway within two years and, must pay to the municipality of Quito not less than 5 per cent of the gross receipts for the first five years, with an increase of 2 per cent for each following 5-year period. On the expiration of the contract the railway, with all rolling stock shall become the property of the municipality. The railway shall be exempt from all taxation and the municipality shall request the free entry of all materials required in the construction of the railway. Native bidders for the contract shall be given preference over foreign bidders where conditions are equal.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

[Correspondent J. F. Boomer, Hawaii, Nov. 1.]

Construction of Port Works.

Port works at Tacloban, Leyte, involving the expenditure of \$50,000, are expected to be completed by January, 1917. Further improvements of this port are contemplated and the matter of additional funds will be taken up during the present session of the Philippine Congress. The additional work will include an extension of the wharf. This will include a modern bulkhead with an extensive filled-in area for warehouses. The province of Leyte is to furnish \$50,000 for the work. The province is also arranging to provide funds for a new provincial building at Tacloban to cost about \$100,000.

The city of Cebu is also engaged in extensive wharf construction. The project has been but recently authorized and the orders are about to be placed for materials. It is expected that the projected work will practically double the wharf area of Cebu and reclaim a large area of lowland for warehouse purposes.

Tagbilaran, Bohol, is planning the construction of a new wharf and the deepening of the channel of the port. The construction of a road leading to the site of the proposed new wharf has been begun.

Work has been suspended on the jetty at Calbayog, Samar, until the end of the present monsoon season.

Practically all the concrete work has been completed on the new customs house at Iloilo. It is expected that the roof will be finished before the first of the year. This work has been retarded by the failure of hardware to arrive from the United States.

NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 6.]

Harbor Reclamation Scheme at Auckland.

The Auckland Harbor Board has arranged to reclaim about 8 acres of land on the shores of the Waitemata Harbor near this city at a total cost of about \$194,660. In doing this it will remove some annoying bluffs adjoining the shore and open up some valuable building property.

This reclaimed land is to be held by the Auckland Harbor Board and leased to the public as has been done in the past. Extending beyond this it is intended to reclaim additional land from the harbor. It is proposed to begin work on this improvement immediately and push it to an early completion.

Public School Buildings in New Zealand.

The matter of suitable and convenient school buildings is being given much attention by the education department of the New Zealand Government, and there seems to be an inclination to adopt a uniform style of buildings for the larger towns and city schools to accommodate from 300 to 400 pupils. It is suggested that these might be erected of reinforced concrete after models so as to materially decrease the cost.

It is also proposed to erect standardized portable school houses for growing suburbs and country schools, with the idea of changing the location as the population changes or increases. It is claimed that by this means fairly up-to-date accommodation can be furnished for pupils in all parts of the country at a comparatively reasonable cost.

Railroad Construction in North Island.

There is a strong move on foot in the North Island of New Zealand in favor of the construction of additional railroads so as to open up much valuable and fertile country that now is quite inaccessible.

This country is located in the north and northeastern part of the North Island and is only reached by steamer. The railroad mileage in the North Island on March 31, 1916, was 1,240 miles, whereas the South Island had 1,714 miles. Farming and industrial interests of the North Island feel that this part of the country would warrant a greater investment in the railroads in order to properly develop the country, so as to open up suitable areas on which to locate returned soldiers and the immigrants who are expected from allied countries at the close of the war.

It is probable that there will be definite opportunities at the close of the European war for supplying railway material, that has come in the past so largely from European manufacturers.

UNITED STATES FACTORIES IN CANADA.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Dec. 8.]

About 50 branches of United States firms have been established in Canada during the last two years. Most of these have come to Ontario, several to Quebec Province, and a few to western cities. With an average investment conservatively estimated at \$300,000, these 50 plants represent a new investment of \$15,000,000 in this country. There were previously about 450 such companies in Canada, which, with a similar average investment, represented an aggregate of \$135,000,000. The grand total investment, therefore, is now \$150,000,000.

Among the United States companies that have recently established branches are makers of the following articles: Railway accessories, overalls, chemicals, silverware and flatware, automobiles, horseshoes, steel goods, patent medicines, spices, soaps, perfumes, glue, beet sugar, pumps, greenhouses, railway signals, fuses, boxes, spreaders, silk gloves, stockings, tires, steel, steel products, canned goods, automobile varnishes, belting, store counters, explosives, pulp and paper, sewing machines, aloxite and other abrasives and electric furnace products, grain and elevator machinery, silk and chammoisette gloves, refined nickel, and cottonseed-oil products.

Branch Plants and Their Location.

Of the total of United States investments of \$978,000,000 in the Dominion \$150,000,000 is represented by branch plants. Until 1914 this was the largest item in the list of United States investments here. Since then Canadian securities have been sold in the neighboring Republic in far greater volume than hitherto, and consequently that item now represents the largest United States investment in Canada, branch establishments coming second.

The largest number of branch plants of United States companies in Canada is located in Ontario, although there is a tendency to utilize western Canadian points to a greater extent. At least 12 United States manufacturers of agricultural and farm implements have branches in the Dominion and about as many makers of automobiles. In the latter case the parts are usually imported separately and assembled in this country. Several United States manufacturers of chemicals, drugs, patent foods, and cereals have factories or distributing houses on the Canadian side of the international line. A large number of firms manufacturing and supplying various machinery, fittings, and plant are also doing business in Canada in a similar way.

Lengthy List of Articles.

Among the United States companies established here before the recent American commercial invasion are manufacturers of asbestos, barrels, blind rollers, buttons, carpet sweepers, corsets, condensed milk, bags, corks, carriages, couches, brass goods, billiard tables, cords, cash registers, disinfectants, fly paper, files, fire extinguishers, fountain pens, gramophones, hardware, pickles, presses, pulleys, razors, rubbers, sealers, shoes, scales, typewriters, watch cases, tobacco, etc. This list, together with the recent additions, gives an idea of the scope of United States industrial interests in the Dominion.

[An article on American investments in Canada was published in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Feb. 11, 1914.]

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**ARGENTINA.**

[Boletín Oficial, Aug. 21.]

Classification of Brass Bed Parts.

A decision of the Argentine Board of Appraisers classifies tubes for brass beds under No. 509, the tariff number applicable to the beds, although it was contended by the importer that the articles should be classified under No. 999, the item under which brass tubes, bars, etc., are dutiable. The rates applicable under Nos. 509 and 999, respectively, are 0.189 and 0.108 peso per kilo (peso, \$0.965; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.)

[Boletín Oficial, Aug. 21.]

Classification of Plated Jewelry.

Gold-plated rings are not to be classified as imitation jewelry, according to a recent Argentine decision, but are subject to the duty of 27 per cent ad valorem (including surtax), applicable to articles not specified in the tariff. Imitation jewelry (No. 2531) is dutiable at 0.81 peso per kilo.

[Boletín Oficial, Sept. 4.]

Classification of Gas Oil.

A further change has been made in the tariff classification of gas oil imported into Argentina, according to a decree of August 26, 1916. Gas oils not entitled to free admission, instead of being dutiable at 5 per cent ad valorem, are to be subject to a duty of 5 per cent calculated on an official valuation of 0.03 peso per kilo. [The classification of petroleum products in Argentina is shown in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 19, p. 45, and in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 14, 1916.]

AUSTRALIA.**Marking of Canned Lobster.**

The following ruling is published in an Australian customs circular dated August 24, 1916:

The only crustacean which may be described as "lobster" is the European and American species of *Homarus*. All others should have some qualifying term applied to them, such as the case requires, e. g., "Spiny," "Rock," or "Cape Spiny" lobster.

Illustrations of lobsters appearing on labels applied to tins are considered misleading in instances where the contents are not true lobsters.

CANADA.

[Appraisers' Bulletin No. 1390, Nov. 14.]

Classification of Cylinders Containing Chemicals.

Drums or cylinders containing liquid chlorine and gases subject to an ad valorem duty are to be considered "usual coverings," and as such are to be dutiable under tariff No. 710(b), according to a recent Canadian decision.

[The Canadian customs tariff provides that "usual coverings" of imported goods shall be dutiable at 27½ per cent ad valorem under the general tariff (British preferential rate, 20 per cent ad valorem). The ad valorem rates on most articles are in excess of these duties, and receptacles, if not classified under No. 710(b), would ordinarily

be subject to the rates applicable to the contents. Containers are dutiable under No. 710(b) only when separately specified in invoices.]

CUBA.

[Customs Circular No. 22, Oct. 20.]

Reduction on Fabrics for Mattresses, Etc.

A Cuban decree of October 20, 1916, exempts from the surtax of 20 per cent imposed by the decree of February 1, 1904, cotton fabrics classified under Nos. 114, 115, 116, and 117 of the Cuban customs tariff, provided such goods are imported by manufacturers of mattresses, pillows, and sweat pads, for use in their own establishments. In order to take advantage of these reductions, importers must make declaration under oath that the goods are to be used as above indicated.

ECUADOR.

Export Duty on Cacao.

Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquil, under date of October 26, 1916, transmitted a copy of an Ecuadorian law, enacted October 12, increasing the export duty on cacao from 1 to 3 sucres per quintal (sucre, \$0.49; quintal, 101.4 pounds). It is provided that the new rate shall remain in effect for five years from the date of the law, and the revenue obtained is to be turned over to the Asociación de Agricultores.

FRANCE.

[Consul-General A. M. Thackern, Paris, Oct. 25.]

Importation of Precious Stones.

The decree of May 11, 1916, prohibited the importation into France of diamonds and precious stones, as well as many other articles. (See Foreign Tariff Notes No. 21, p. 171.)

The Minister of Commerce, however, has recently decided to relax this prohibition to a certain extent, and, according to a notice published in the Journal Officiel of October 12, 1916, the importation of cut diamonds and other cut precious stones may be authorized by special permission, when they are intended for the manufacture of jewelry, upon condition that stones of similar value are exported from France.

Corresponding exports may be made either by the importer or by any other firm.

Permits to import such stones are to be granted by the Diamond Commission of the Ministry of Commerce, No. 4 rue Guénégaud, Paris, which verifies the values of imports and exports of cut precious stones.

Importers are requested to ask their foreign suppliers to send the stones by registered mail, addressed as follows: (1) With the ordinary French address of the importer and (2) bearing the following inscription: "A livrer au siège de la commission, 4, rue Guénégaud, Paris."

GOLD COAST.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Oct. 11.]

Export Duty on Cocoa.

An ordinance passed by the Gold Coast Colony legislature September 23, 1916, and in effect October 1, imposes a tax of 1 farthing

(0.25 penny=\$0.005) per pound on all cocoa exported from the colony.

ITALY.

[Vice Consul A. C. Frost, Genoa, Oct. 13.]

Importation of Medicinal Products.

Before foreign medicines may be imported into Italy or sold there permission must be granted by the "Consiglio Superiore di Sanità," Ministry of the Interior, Rome. In making application to this body it is necessary to indicate the nature of the product, the place of manufacture, and a brief description of the method of preparation. The petition should also set forth the therapeutic qualities of the product, and it should be shown that the preparation has been manufactured in conformity with the laws of the country of production. Samples should be submitted in making application to the sanitary authorities. Containers of medicinal products must specify the quantity of dose and the principal ingredients.

SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 25.]

Free Zone at Barcelona.

The concession for the establishment of a free zone at Barcelona (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 21, p. 161) has been granted by royal decree of October 24, 1916, to an association consisting of the municipality of Barcelona and representatives of various commercial and industrial organizations. This association is authorized to farm out the privilege of managing the free area and must present a complete project for the development and control of the zone to the Ministry of Finance within one year.

TRINIDAD.

[Consul Andrew J. McConnico, Trinidad, Oct. 31.]

Duty on Cinematograph Films.

According to a resolution of the legislative council dated October 20, 1916, a duty of \$0.10 per 100 feet is to be imposed on cinematograph films imported into Trinidad and no refund upon reexportation within a given period is to be allowed. Formerly films were dutiable at 10 per cent ad valorem, the duty being refunded upon reexportation.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Acetic acid-----	23299	Lumber-----	23300
Bicycle parts-----	23306	Machinery, farm-----	23307
Canvas-----	23302	Machinery, printing-----	23301
Cordage and rope, etc.-----	23303	Needles-----	23302
Cutlery-----	23302	Novelties-----	23298
Drugs-----	23302	Paints and oils-----	23302
Enameled ware-----	23302	Perfumery-----	23302
Explosives-----	23305	Piece goods-----	23302
Garters-----	23302	Printing supplies-----	23301
Gellignite-----	23306	Silver plating forms-----	23306
Glassware-----	23302	Stationery-----	23301
Hardware-----	23302, 23304	Suspenders-----	23302
Knit goods-----	23302	Toys-----	23298

23298.*—A man in Spain desires to purchase mechanical toys with springs, toy trains, and novelties. He is also interested in an agency for such goods. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid upon receipt of merchandise. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23299.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for a yearly supply of from 15 to 20 tons of acetic acid. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23300.†—A firm in Colombia wishes to communicate with American exporters of southern pine. This firm will pay freight and duty charges on a small cargo of lumber sent it on commission.

23301.†—A man in China would like to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of printing machinery and supplies and stationery.

23302.*—A firm in Brazil desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of perfumes, knit goods, cutlery, locks, hinges, glassware, enameled ware, paints and oils, piece goods, drugs, needles, suspenders, garters, canvas, etc. Correspondence in Portuguese. References.

23303.‡—A man in the British West Indies wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of cordage. Samples and prices of sisal and manila rope, fishing lines, and twines are desired.

23304.*—A man in Spain is in the market for metal parts for furniture such as locks, knobs, handles, and plaques. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid. Reference. Correspondence in Spanish.

23305.*—A firm in Chile desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of gellignite, dynamite, fuse, and explosives. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23306.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for bicycle accessories of all kinds. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23307.*—An agricultural syndicate in Brazil would like to receive catalogues of farming implements and, if possible, samples of American plows, etc., for educational purposes. Correspondence in Portuguese.

23308.*—A firm in Spain desires to purchase stamped white-metal forms for silver plating articles for table use. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Correspondence in Spanish.

The Canadian trade commissioner in Shanghai writes that considerable demand exists in China for woolen piece goods, light-weight beavers, meltons, and tweeds, medium qualities of all-wool cloth, union cloth, and shoddy mixtures.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 298 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 20 1916

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SHIPMENT OF SULPHUR TO THE NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 15.]

Blockade restrictions on exportation of sulphur to Holland canceled, and facilities for such trade will be given.

MEXICAN DECREE CONCERNING INSURANCE OBLIGATIONS.

A cablegram from the special representative of American interests in Mexico City states that a decree just published provides that all insurance obligations are to be paid on the basis of national gold according to the average monthly exchange rates since January, 1913.

NEW BANKING ENTERPRISES IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 24.]

An office of the Anglo-South American Bank (Ltd.) has just been opened in Barcelona. The head office of this concern was established in London in 1888. There are branches in New York and Paris, in addition to 11 offices in Chile, 7 in Argentina, and 1 in Uruguay. The bank offers facilities for the transaction of foreign business.

The Spanish Minister of Finance has presented a bill to the Cortes providing for the formation of a bank, to be known as the "Banco Español de Comercio Exterior," for making advances with a view to the extension of foreign trade. The bill proposes the granting of credit to facilitate the export of goods of all kinds and the import of raw materials for agricultural and industrial uses; the discount, purchase, and sale of international drafts; the opening of credits in foreign money for operations abroad; the establishment of general warehouses for merchandise and of free customs zones; the creation of information bureaus, bureaus of propaganda, and commercial museums; the granting of loans with the guaranty of vessels; maritime insurance and such other operations as may be properly connected with the development of foreign and domestic commerce.

The capital of the bank will be fixed by the Government at an amount not less than \$8,000,000. The plan is to divide the capital into registered shares, to be subscribed either by Spanish banking concerns or public subscription. Foreigners, as a whole, may not hold shares representing more than one-fifth of the capital. The Government of Spain will subvention the bank with a sum which in no case shall exceed 5 per cent per annum of the capital invested in its shares.

ELECTRIC-LIGHTING FIXTURES IN ONTARIO.

[Consul José de Olivares, Hamilton, Ontario, Nov. 29.]

There is a large demand throughout the Hamilton district for electric-lighting supplies of all kinds. Those in use are principally of Canadian, English, and American manufacture. The most satisfactory method of introducing such products would be to have a representative come to Hamilton with a view to demonstrating their advantages to local dealers. The fact that the city is within two hours' journey by rail from Buffalo and that there are frequent trains between the two places makes it quite practicable for commercial travelers who visit the American city to include Hamilton in their territory. This is done extensively.

The geographical position of the city renders it even more accessible from the large manufacturing and exporting centers of the United States than many American cities, and this has resulted in establishing the same business methods and customs between local dealers and American manufacturers and exporters that obtain in connection with the domestic trade of the United States.

Railway Routes from the United States.

Hamilton is reached from the United States by the following railway routes: Via Buffalo, N. Y., by the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway, and the Canadian Pacific Railway; via Niagara Falls, N. Y., by the Grand Trunk Railway and the Michigan Central Railway; via Port Huron, Mich., by the Grand Trunk Railway; and via Detroit, Mich., by the Grand Trunk Railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Michigan Central Railway, and the New York Central Lines.

The general Canadian import duty on electrical apparatus is 27½ per cent plus a special war tax of 7½ per cent ad valorem, as compared with a preferential rate on British-made goods of 15 per cent plus a special war tax of 5 per cent ad valorem, and an intermediate or reciprocal rate of 25 per cent plus a special war tax of 7½ per cent ad valorem. Electric-light fixtures imported from the United States are dutiable at 30 per cent plus the 7½ per cent war surtax.

[A list of dealers in electric, gas, and combination lighting fixtures in the Hamilton consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82430.]

The American ambassador at Buenos Aires, Argentina, reports that the budget commission has made public the fact that the short-time debt of the Argentina Government amounts to 409,000,000 pesos paper (\$173,620,500 United States gold), 50,000,000 pesos (\$21,225,000) maturing in 1916 and 200,000,000 pesos (\$84,900,000) in 1917.

CONDITIONS AFFECTING HONDURAS RUBBER INDUSTRY.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Ceiba, Nov. 29.]

The rubber industry in Honduras is dormant. Because of the low price, coupled with the export duty levied by the Government of Honduras and the municipalities, amounting at Ceiba to approximately 4 cents gold per pound, very little rubber is being shipped. Natives will not tap the trees at the prevailing prices, even when they can find them close at hand, and traders declare that they buy the product merely as an accommodation.

Cleared lands, no longer productive for bananas, are quoted at about 150 pesos (\$52.50) per manzana, which is 1.74 acres. Uncleared land is much cheaper, and at a distance from transportation facilities it may be had free on denouncement, by paying the surveyor's charges. To clear it will cost from 100 to 125 pesos per manzana. Land not close to a railroad or port is of little value, as there are no roads, and the cost of getting out the product to the ship's side would be prohibitive.

Shipping Facilities in General Very Poor.

Common labor receives the equivalent of \$1 to \$1.40 gold. Shipping facilities in general are very bad. At this port there is a regular line of ships to New Orleans in the carrying trade for a large banana company. The line has been able to take all the outside freight offered, although there is a possibility of delay. At Tela also there is a regular steamship service, and the same is true at Puerto Cortes. Elsewhere on the coast, however, transportation is very uncertain. Some produce is concentrated at the regular ports by small coasting craft, at rather high rates of freight.

The owner of a rubber plantation at Bamboo, with about 100,000 trees from 8 to 10 years old, I am informed, desires to sell. The native rubber is the kind adopted by planters here. A citizen of this city who has had experience in growing rubber in Nicaragua is among those best informed regarding the industry. His plantation is said to have been practically destroyed by a hurricane.

[The names of the two persons mentioned in this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82627.]

SHIPYARDS BUSY ON THE BAY OF FUNDY.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Dec. 14.]

Two three-masted wooden schooners were launched on December 9 from shipyards on the Parrsboro Shore, at the upper end of the Bay of Fundy. At Parrsboro proper the *Minas Queen*, a vessel with a registered tonnage of 566, was put afloat by Messrs. W. R. and C. A. Huntley. Messrs. H. Elderkin & Co., at Port Greville, were the builders of the other vessel, the *F. A. J. E.*, of 350 tons register.

The builders of the *Minas Queen* have contracted for a four-masted schooner of 160 feet keel length for the same company, to be ready for launching early in the coming summer. At the Elderkin yard at Port Greville the frame is now being made ready for a schooner similar to the *F. A. J. E.*, which is expected to be delivered within about seven months.

INCREASED ARGENTINE TRADE IN MARKING DEVICES.

[Consul William Dawson, Jr., Rosario, Oct. 24.]

Argentina offers a fair demand for steel log and metal stamps and dies. The lumbering industry in the northern part of the Rosario district is important, and while the smaller concerns mark logs with the ax, the large companies use steel stamps. There is a still better demand for steel stamps and dies with interchangeable numbers and letters, which are used chiefly by machine shops.

In addition to large railway shops, Rosario has a considerable number of small machine shops engaged largely in repair work. These and similar shops at interior points constitute the principal market for the better grades of steel stamps, which in the past have been imported largely from France. A cheaper grade of stamp, used by tinshops, saddlers, etc., has come from Germany.

A few small foundries at Rosario also use stamps. There are, however, no steel mills, tool factories, or important metal-working establishments. Steel stamps and dies are generally imported, although they are also made locally on a small scale. Stencils are made to order locally by shops doing a small business.

Burning Brands Used by Liquor Manufacturers.

Burning brands for branding wood are used by liquor factories and other concerns shipping their goods in wooden cases. They are employed particularly by leading liquor manufacturers, who make a wide variety of products and have machines with interchangeable letters. A very complete outfit of this kind which had been imported from France was inspected recently. Cattle brands, for which there is a large demand, are made locally and also imported.

Metal checks and badges do not appear to be very widely used. They are made here by some small concerns which manufacture to order. These shops, which maintain their own retail stores, make metal stamps, badges, checks, enameled and metal plates and signs, seals, rubber stamps, etc. Any local consumer requiring small quantities of these articles would in most instances find it more convenient to have them made to order locally. The difference in price in favor of the foreign manufacturer working on a large scale would be compensated by the facilities for securing competitive bids locally, personal supervision of work, and time gained. Rosario concerns have to contend with the high cost of imported supplies and expensive labor. The demand in general is for products of good quality and appearance.

Large Quantities Often Ordered from Abroad.

Consumers requiring large quantities of a given article often order from abroad. This is particularly true of metal plates for machinery. Argentina has a large number of very important concerns importing a great variety of machines which they mark with metal plates. These plates are generally imported and formerly came chiefly from Europe, although American plates have been used and are becoming more common.

Common rubber stamps are made to order locally. Dating stamps, time stamps, and self-inking stamps, as well as holders for them, are imported from various countries, as are most supplies used by stamp makers.

Labor-Saving Devices Regarded with Favor.

In general the demand for steel stamps and dies, metal plates for machinery, and rubber-stamp specialties is most pronounced. A market may be found for other similar products, if well pushed. Rosario has 236,000 inhabitants and is an important commercial center, with numerous banks, large importing houses, department stores, etc. Cordoba, Mendoza, and Tucuman are leading interior markets. While marking devices and stamps on the whole are not so widely used as in the United States, they are not uncommon, and their use could be extended. Argentine business men are inclined to view with favor labor-saving devices and methods.

A representative of a manufacturer in the United States probably could make arrangements for agencies at Buenos Aires and Rosario, through which the field would be worked in the future. It is believed that these goods require personal solicitation. European concerns handle the market either through traveling salesmen or local representatives.

COTTON EXPORTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ended December 16, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	20,876	Philadelphia.....		San Francisco.....	3,978
Massachusetts.....	965	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	30,321
Maryland.....	7,407	Virginia.....		Total.....	180,655
New York.....	14,648	Galveston.....	63,156		
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	38,604		

The exports of 180,655 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 2,895,920 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 141,057 bales for the week and 2,126,609 bales in the cotton year.

TO IMPROVE CHINESE METHODS OF SILK PRODUCTION.

[John R. Arnold, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Oct. 24.]

The General Gild of the Silk Trade at Shanghai, a Chinese organization, is reported to have taken up on a practical basis the question of the improvement of the methods of silk production in China. Japanese silk is generally regarded by experts as naturally inferior to Chinese, yet the export of steam filature silk from Japan has been increasing in recent years by leaps and bounds, while that from China has been at best no more than holding its own.

Two representatives of the gild have been appointed to go to Japan and study the methods in use there. They have already left for this work, and instructions have been given to the Chinese Minister at Tokyo to render them assistance.

GERMAN SUBSTITUTES FOR RUBBER BICYCLE TIRES.

[Vice Consul H. E. Carlson, Frankfort on the Main, Nov. 18.]

The scarcity of rubber and the partial commandeering of rubber bicycle tires have caused a number of substitutes to appear on the German market. The substances used are steel wire, leather, wood, prepared canvas, and combinations of these substances.

The first substitute to appear was a tire made of steel wire, about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick, which was made up into a very close coil, the two ends being welded together to give it the proper shape. The wholesale price of this product is now 12 marks (\$2.86), and it is retailed for 18 marks (\$4.28). Besides the fact that the price is high, the steel-coil tire has the additional objection that it cuts into the pavements and rattles considerably when in use. The latter objection might be overcome, it is said, by placing a layer of felt between the rim and the tire, but this would increase the price.

Three Different Types of Wooden Tires.

Wooden tires have been used with some success. At least three different types of which wood is the main part are sold here. In a few cases the tires are made of a single piece of wood, and retail at 4 to 6 marks (\$0.95 to \$1.43). Sectional wooden tires also have appeared on the market. One of these is made by the Continental Caoutchouc und Gutta Percha Comp., of Hannover. It is composed of 47 parts. These are 12 wooden tire-sections of 3 different kinds, 12 tin plates, 12 screws, 10 connecting pins, and 1 thumbscrew. The tin plates are used to secure the sections to the rim, which must be of metal; the screws to attach the tin plates to the ends of the sections; the connecting pins to hold the sections together, and the thumbscrew is put through the valve hole in the rim and thus tends to attach the tire more firmly to the rim. The company is selling this tire for 6 marks (\$1.43). In reality the expense is a little more, for in order to give satisfaction shock absorbers in the form of steel springs must be attached to the fork of the front wheel. These springs retail at 7.50 marks (\$1.78) and are also to be had through the Continental Co. This brings the total cost for a set of tires up to 19.50 marks (\$4.64).

Leather Covers Outer Surface of Wood.

A third wooden tire which is advertised is said not to be meeting with great success on account of the price. This is made of one piece of wood, the outer surface of which is covered with a small strip of leather. Between the under surface of the tire and the rim several steel springs are placed with a view to securing elasticity. In addition to this, large steel springs are attached to the front and back forks. The cost of this outfit, including the two tires and the large springs, is 36 marks (\$8.57).

Several leather-covered and canvas-covered tires also are on the market. These are solid, the outer casings being of leather or prepared canvas, and the inner part consisting of wood and other substances. To make the tire more durable small pieces of steel are often affixed to the outer or wearing surface. The prices for products of this class vary. One fairly good leather-covered tire retails at 48 marks a set (\$11.42); another at 70 marks (\$16.66).

Has Certain Amount of Elasticity.

The tire that is said to have the strongest claim to being a real substitute for the rubber article appears on the market under the trade name of "Lobo." It is made in Chemnitz, Saxony, by the Kunstgummi, G. m. b. H. It is composed of two parts, corresponding to the former inner and outer tires. The inner part, which is most important, is solid and is covered with cloth made into the shape of a tire. The tube is filled with a preparation resembling rubber. The outer tube is composed of prepared canvas and is said to have very good wearing qualities. The effect is to give the tire a certain amount of elasticity, so that it can be used without springs at either of the forks. The price for a set of these tires is 52 marks (\$12.38). This will doubtless tend to restrict their use.

The most practical tire, from the point of view of both price and service, seems to be the sectional wooden tire.

[A circular describing sectional wooden tires may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 82915.]

FAMOUS SPANISH QUICKSILVER MINES FOR LEASE.

[Ambassador Joseph E. Willard, Madrid, Oct. 14.]

The Gaceta de Madrid for October 3 contains the text of a law governing the leasing of the State-owned quicksilver mines in Almaden. The diminishing profit derived from the mines because of the rising cost of production is assigned as the reason for changing the present method of exploitation.

As submitted to the Cortes, the proposed law provides that bids for working the Almaden mines shall be called for within one month following the date of its promulgation and the contract awarded two months later by a specially appointed committee presided over by the Under Secretary of the Treasury. The maximum price which the Treasury will pay per flask of quicksilver will be based on the average net cost of production for the last five years; the Treasury will also fix the number of flasks to be produced and the dates of delivery.

The Government will turn over to the successful bidder the buildings and equipment now in use at the mines, to be returned to the Government at the expiration of the contract. The contractor must yearly expend a minimum of 30,000 pesetas (about \$6,000) in investigation work and must install electric-power and potable-water services at the mines. The Treasury will pay the contractor for the improvements made either by amortization of 5 per cent yearly on the works and 10 per cent on machinery or, if preferred by the State, through expert appraisal of their real value at the time it takes charge of the improvements.

The maximum life of the contract is fixed at 15 years.

[A translation of this law may be inspected by those interested at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 82324.]

It is not generally recognized what an excellent market South Africa is for safes. One agency firm alone claims to be able to place 1,000 every year.

AMERICAN QUICKSILVER INDUSTRY.

[Extracts from bulletin of United States Geological Survey.]

The American quicksilver industry continued to be of more than usual interest throughout 1915, owing to the large consumption of the metal in the manufacture of war supplies and the generally prevailing high prices resulting from the great demand. Soon after the outbreak of the war foreign embargoes on the exportation of metals made it seem that domestic producers would control the market in the United States during the war, and several shipments from Italy (made, it is reported, under contracts drawn prior to the disturbed conditions abroad) did not prevent a soaring market through 1915 and extending to March, 1916.

Prices for the metal became so high in February and March, 1916, that certain foreign Governments permitted the shipment of some quicksilver to this country, and thus, to a small but important extent, competition in the home market between domestic and foreign supplies was reestablished, and prices fell from \$300 per flask in February, 1916, to \$75 in August, 1916. [In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, the United States imported for consumption 554,792 pounds of quicksilver, valued at \$595,007, and exported 232,763 pounds, valued at \$274,086.] Although, owing to the efforts of producers to make capacity output, some stocks have doubtless accumulated, the price of quicksilver abroad will probably justify exports from this country, and cause reduction of stocks if the domestic quotations run much below \$70. Therefore it would seem that producers here may count upon a fair price for their metal, possibly not below \$1 a pound, during the war.

American Production Last Year—Uses.

The quicksilver mines and prospects of the United States were under active development in 1915. Additions to reduction plants were made at old mines and retorts were put in operation at promising prospects. Including small prospects, there were 39 producers of quicksilver in the United States in 1915, against 30 in 1914 and 24 in 1913. Thirty-two of the producers in 1915 were in California, 4 in Nevada, and 1 producer each in Arizona, Oregon, and Texas. The output was 21,033 flasks of 75 pounds each, against 16,548 flasks in 1914 and 20,213 flasks in 1913. At the average sales price reported by the producers of \$86.86 per flask for 1915 the output was valued at \$1,826,912, against \$811,680 in 1914 (average per flask, \$49.05) and \$813,171 in 1913 (average per flask, \$40.23). Compared with 1914 the yield for 1915 showed an increase of 27 per cent in quantity and 125 per cent in value.

Quicksilver is used mainly in the manufacture of fulminate for explosive caps, of drugs (calomel, mercuric chloride, etc.), of paint (vermilion), of electrical appliances and scientific apparatus (thermometers, barometers, etc.), and in the recovery by amalgamation of precious metals, especially gold. It is little employed nowadays for silvering mirrors, being replaced by silver nitrate. Mercuric oxide (red oxide of mercury) has been used as a paint to a considerable extent as an active poison to prevent fouling of ships' bottoms.

World Output.

A full statement of the world's output can not be expected during the progress of the war in Europe. The following table gives the best figures available at this date:

Country.	Production, in flasks of 75 pounds.								
	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
United States.....	28,083	21,554	19,752	21,075	20,601	21,258	25,064	20,213	16,518
Austria-Hungary.....	16,961	16,067	18,519	17,902	20,400	23,310	23,016	25,720	(a)
Italy.....	12,287	12,424	19,989	22,604	26,279	27,337	28,983	29,513	31,541
Russia.....	6,173	3,821	1,440	205	113	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Spain.....	40,062	35,627	31,334	40,947	32,746	b 43,681	b 43,799	b 43,799	(a)
Mexico and other (estimated).....	5,879	5,879	5,879	4,409	4,409	4,409	4,409	4,409	(a)
Total.....	113,445	95,982	96,973	107,203	104,553	120,023	125,271	121,654	.....

a Statistics not available.

b Export figures only.

The general increase of world output in the period for which complete figures are available had a direct bearing on the domestic industry, for the total production has been in excess of the world's demands and any temporary improvement in prices in this country has been checked by importations from surplus foreign supplies produced at low cost. The production of Spain and of Italy has been increasing since the outbreak of the war. The famous Santa Barbara deposits of Huanavelica, Peru, have passed into new hands and may be reopened. The production of quicksilver from low-grade ores at Punitaqui, Chile, is reported. Deposits of cinnabar have been noted in Mexico, but no reports of recent operations have reached the Survey. The Terlingua field, of Brewster County, Tex., is said to extend for a considerable distance into Mexico, with promise of workable ore bodies similar to those on the Texas side of the border.

DEPOSITS OF TALC IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 13.]

Deposits of talc and kaolin are of frequent occurrence in crystalline rocks, which are of wide distribution in Brazil. Some of these, more favorably situated in relation to transportation and markets, are now being worked. Of these the following may be mentioned:

1. Near Rezende, State of Rio de Janeiro, where a very pure white talc is produced, requiring little treatment before being available as a cosmetic.

2. Near Lorena, State of São Paulo.

3. Near Santo Amaro, State of São Paulo, not far from the city of São Paulo.

Massive talc, or steatite, occurs in different parts of the country, as near Itaberaba, município de Ouro Preto, Varzea near Dorcas de Boa Esperança, and near Jacuhy in the western part of Minas Geraes. At these places its principal use is in the manufacture of cooking utensils, which are turned out on the lathe from the solid block of soapstone. Pans and pots of this material are specially prized in Brazil for cooking rice. It also occurs in Ceara and Goyaz.

[A sample of Brazilian talc may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, or its district offices. Refer to file No. 82924.]

PROPOSED ERECTION OF PHILIPPINE SUGAR CENTRALS.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Nov. 10.]

Twenty-two planters of Silay and Saravia, representing between 3,000 and 4,000 hectares (between 7,500 and 10,000 acres) of the best sugar land in Negros, recently met in the Bureau of Science Sugar Laboratory at Iloilo to consider the possibility and desirability of erecting centrals in these districts.

The terms of a tentative contract were discussed. A contract closely resembling that now in force between the San Carlos Milling Co. and the planters was found to be most satisfactory to all. The San Carlos contract is a very lengthy document. The obligations assumed by the San Carlos mill summarized are: To furnish a modern mill, to transport the cane to the mill, to make it into 96° sugar, to give the planters a certain share which has been previously agreed upon, to store it for a time, and, finally, to deliver the planters' share of the sugar alongside the vessel when it is sold. The planters in this contract agree to sell land to the mill for a suitable mill site and to furnish right of way for railroad and for water transportation. The contract is for 30 years, with an extension of the time to a total period of 50 years for the use of the main railroad and the water supply by the central.

The San Carlos terms have proved satisfactory to both contracting parties, and the terms of the planters of Silay and Saravia differ but slightly from these. Each side must furnish a bond of \$30,000 as evidence of good faith; the company is allowed a period of eight months for the installation of machinery; the planters are allowed the privilege of purchasing the mill at a reasonable price at the expiration of the contract; the company is to receive 45 per cent of the sugar made from the cane of the contracting planter; new planters may be admitted by the mutual consent on a 50 per cent basis, the extra 5 per cent to be equally divided between the company and the planters; and the milling season is to extend over a period of 130 days, unless otherwise changed by mutual consent of the parties concerned.

Very few of the planters present at this meeting had ever visited a large sugar central; consequently they manifested much interest in the working of the modern central, which was described by a Bureau of Science representative. This meeting will undoubtedly result in the establishment of a sugar central in this district and will lead to closer cooperation among the planters.

URBAN POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Nov. 14.]

A large percentage of the people of Australia lives in the principal cities of the different States. Sydney, with a population of 763,000, represents over 40 per cent of the people of New South Wales; Perth, with a population of 122,000, represents 38 per cent of the inhabitants of Western Australia; Brisbane, with 162,000, represents nearly 24 per cent of the people of Queensland; Hobart, with 40,000, has under 20 per cent of the people of Tasmania; Melbourne, with a population of 684,000, contains 48 per cent of the total population of Victoria; and Adelaide, with 205,000, has over 46 per cent of the people of South Australia.

THE AUSTRALIAN EXPORT TRADE.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Nov. 14.]

A comparison of the exports of the principal articles from Australia during the quarter ended September 30, 1916, with the same period in 1915 shows striking variations. Apart from wheat and flour, the exports have not, as a whole, expanded, and in a number of items the decreases have been decided. The shortage of tonnage has affected the trade, and the coal strike and other difficulties practically suspended shipments in this line. Shipments of beef are reviving, while those of rabbits are far ahead of those of mutton. The principal exports during the September quarter of 1915 and 1916 follows:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Wool.....	\$22,070,078	\$21,711,403	Butter.....	\$316,653	\$676,288
Tallow.....	504,597	890,617	Wheat.....	238	10,590,910
Sheepskins.....	1,745,540	2,065,123	Flour.....	117,540	2,953,201
Hides.....	1,035,389	422,617	Coal.....	884,963	499,945
Other skins.....	738,434	879,625	Concentrates.....	1,941,334	1,889,612
Leather.....	2,051,253	1,181,766	Copper.....	4,182,142	5,028,583
Beef.....	5,182,662	8,489,268	Lead.....	4,360,627	4,827,962
Mutton.....	997,019	452,390	Ores.....	853,257	779,248
Rabbits and hares.....	1,308,801	1,717,071	Silver.....	988,288	659,415
Tinned meats.....	1,318,383	978,205	Tin.....	734,841	728,130

SALE OF AMERICAN FRUIT IN AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Nov. 11.]

At a recent national conference of the Australasian fruit growers, which was held in Melbourne, a motion brought forward by the New South Wales Fruit Growers' Union asking for increased duty on fruit entering Australia was defeated, and it was voted that no alteration in the tariff was necessary. This will have an important effect on the sale of American apples, oranges, lemons, etc., which are now being imported into Australia in large quantities.

Another motion adopted by the conference and carried was that the "Total prohibition of fruit entering Australia should not be carried into effect unless there was positive proof of actual danger likely to be caused to Australian fruit growers." A member of this conference informed the writer that this motion had special reference to the existence of "apple blotch," "pear blight," and "citrus canker," which are said to exist among the fruit in certain parts of the United States.

A further motion directed the secretary of the conference to bring to the attention of the authorities in the United States the motion of the organization that "California be urged to admit Australia fruits generally from districts free from fruit fly or other diseases."

Extension of Railway Option in Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan Congress has authorized the President to extend to the Pacific Railway Co. another six-months' option on the construction and management of a railroad to the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. This privilege, as published in La Gaceta of September 29, shows that the previous six-months' option was granted on December 4, 1915.

SALES OF AMMUNITION IN CHINA.

[Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, Oct. 13.]

For the importation of ammunition into China a special permit (Hu-choaw) must be procured, good for 6 months. It must be applied for to the superintendent of customs through a consular agent in the case of a foreign importer. This permit when received must be presented to the customs authorities at the port of entry of the goods, and in the application the port of entry must be stated if possible.

In Harbin and in territory of the Chinese Eastern Railway there are also regulations governing the sale of ammunition, except for sporting purposes (rifle ammunition is considered sporting ammunition). The purchaser (consumer) must present a permit from the local authorities stating that he has been permitted to carry a revolver and to purchase ammunition to fit it. The owner or dealer must keep a book in which are recorded the quantity of ammunition received and the quantity sold, stating to whom sold, and in case of revolver cartridges to whom and on what permission (number, date, and where permit used). In this book the sales of rifle cartridges also are recorded, but no permit to purchase is necessary. Only the name and address of the purchaser are required. These books are liable to inspection at any moment.

American Sales and Advertising Practices.

Harbin has no rifle or gun club. American manufacturers are selling only on orders received from dealers here. American firms leave their advertising to the local stores. They send advertising material for windows, etc.

Most of the ammunition arriving here comes through Dairen (Dalny), as there are many hindrances to shipping goods to Harbin to be transhipped through Vladivostok, especially at present. There are difficulties in shipment to Dairen also, because the rules of the South Manchuria Railway require all explosives to be loaded into separate cars, no matter what the quantity may be. If there is less than a carload, the shipper must still pay for a 5-ton shipment.

American shippers employ their customary packing, but heavy articles should be packed in small cases to be handled by one man, as there are no modern means of handling here.

The classes of ammunition sold most extensively in this district are as follows:

Shotgun shells.—Gauges 12, 16, 20, lengths 65 and 70 millimeters, loaded with black and smokeless powders, black mostly in demand, and with shot as follows, in sequence according to demand: (1) Russian shot, sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, for ducks; (2) Russian shot, sizes 000, 00, 0, 1, 2, for geese; (3) Russian shot, sizes 7, 8, 9, 10, for snipe, etc. It is impossible to give the exact American shot sizes. There is, however, a very small demand for factory-loaded shells, primers, and wads. At present there is a great scarcity of powder. Formerly black powder of Russian make was used, and German smokeless powders were in demand, chiefly Hoslacher Pulverfabrik, trade-mark "Pheasant," or "Fasan."

Cartridges for Revolvers and Rifles.

Cartridges.—In demand for automatic pistols: Caliber 7.65 mm. (.32), Browning, etc.; caliber 6.35 mm. (.25), Browning, etc.; caliber

9 mm. (.38), Browning, etc.; caliber 7.63, for Mauser. For revolvers: Caliber .22, Smith & Wesson and others; caliber .32, Smith & Wesson and others; caliber .38, Smith & Wesson and others; caliber for Velodog revolvers. For rifles: Calibers .22, .22 long; .22 BB cap, and CB cap; also hollow pointed; calibers .32 and .32 long; calibers .38 and .38 long; caliber .30-RO long; calibers .320, .380, .32-40, and .38-55.

The sale of ammunition is all at retail, as certain regulations are in force prohibiting its sale in large quantities.

The duty on ammunition is approximately 5 per cent ad valorem.

[A report from Shanghai on arms and ammunition in China was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 12, 1916.]

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela...	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.....	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 604 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.....	do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Taggart, G. Russell.....	Cornwall, Ontario.....	Dec. 20	1104 Euclid Street NW., Washington, D. C.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon..	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greco.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended December 16:

Investigation of Cartridge-inclosed Fuses (Standard Technologic Paper 74).—Results of inquiry by a committee of technical experts of the Bureau of Standards, acting as referee on the question of fire and accident hazard of the Economy refillable fuse as compared with approved fuses. Price, 55 cents.

The Grayfish (Fisheries Bureau Economic Circular 22).—Contains description and a number of recipes of a fish which has recently come into prominence on account of its low cost, yet high grade, rich and wholesome quality. Price, 5 cents.

RAILWAYS IN SWITZERLAND.

[Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall.]

Railroads were introduced in Switzerland in 1844 with the construction of the Basel-St. Ludwig line. The Zurich-Baden line followed in 1847. By 1860 there were 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) of normal-gauge lines in use, and in 1912 their length reached 3,500 kilometers (2,175 miles).

The Swiss normal-gauge railroads (also the narrow-gauge Brünig Railroad) are to-day for the most part the property of the Swiss Confederation. The Swiss people decided October 15, 1897, by a vote of 386,634 against 182,178, to purchase the railroads. At the beginning of the present century the principal valley lines passed over to the Confederation; in 1909, the Gotthard Railroad. At present the Confederation owns 2,670 kilometers (1,659 miles) of the 5,679 kilometers (3,529 miles) of the entire Swiss railroad system, narrow-gauge, street railways, and funiculars included.

The total length of the narrow-gauge railways at the end of 1912 was 1,137 kilometers (706 miles); of the cog-wheel railroads, 152 kilometers (94 miles); of the street railways, 439 kilometers (273 miles); and of the funiculars, 47 kilometers (29 miles). The total cost of construction of the State railways at the end of 1912 was \$248,313,220; of the private normal and narrow gauge railways, \$84,341,000; of the street railways, \$14,282,000; and of the funiculars, \$5,790,000.

Receipts and Expenditures—Dividends.

The receipts of the normal-gauge, narrow-gauge, and cogwheel railways in Switzerland for 1913 totaled \$49,776,410, or \$15,936 per mile; the expenditures in that year amounted to \$33,383,457, or \$10,670 per mile. In 1914—the latest complete year for which data are available—receipts amounted to \$42,420,582, or \$13,193 per mile, and expenditures to \$31,860,412, or \$9,892 per mile. The Swiss railways have suffered severely through the war, as the following statement of receipts for January–June of the last three years discloses:

Railways.	Receipts, January–June—		
	1914	1915	1916
State	\$22,208,012	\$18,975,967	\$19,682,346
Private:			
Normal-gauge	1,961,161	1,649,393	1,817,063
Narrow-gauge	2,317,980	1,422,499	1,701,185
Cogwheel	323,900	50,770	66,602
Street	2,183,674	1,751,647	2,053,715
Total	28,994,727	23,860,276	25,320,911

The average dividends of the private railroads are very small, amounting in 1912 in the case of the normal and narrow gauge railways to 1.7 per cent; street railways, 2.9 per cent; and funiculars, 2 per cent. The State railroads have been able up to the present to pay the interest on capital and loans, but only in the last few years have they yielded profits. The many improvements necessary—double tracks (only 15 per cent of the system has double tracks, as opposed to 43 per cent in France and 38 per cent in Germany), stations, improvements in rolling stock, etc.—will reduce the profits of the State railways for some time to come.

Country Well Served by Railways.

The basis of the Swiss railroad system is the cross formed by the line running from the Lake of Geneva to Lake Constance and the transverse line from and to the Rhine, Basel-Lucerne, and Basel-Berne. The normal-gauge railroad system can, in general, be considered as complete; with the exception of a line to the eastern Alps, no important link is missing. The traffic in the west is cared for by the Simplon and Lötschberg lines, but Geneva desires direct connection with Paris by a tunnel through the Faucille. The Gotthard line serves the central traffic and that of a great part of eastern Switzerland. The traffic from east to west is cared for in the north by the Rhine line from Chur-Basel to Delle. The central part of the country has the long Romanshorn and Rorschach-Geneva line. The Lake Constance-Berner Oberland line leads across the lower Alps and through the Simmental and the Berne and Fribourg Alps to the Lake of Geneva.

The Brünig and Montreux-Berner Oberland Railroads are narrow gauge. The line which will in a few years connect the Canton Graubünden with the Canton Valais via Oberalp and Furka will be entirely narrow gauge. The narrow-gauge Rhätische Railroad connects Chur with Disentis, and from there the newly-built Oberalp-Furka Railroad leads down to Brig via Andermatt and Gletsch. A narrow-gauge railroad is to be built over the Bernhardin down to Missox, where it will connect with the Tessin system; from here further connections with the Canton Valais are planned, so that the southern part of the country will also be connected from east to west.

Lines to be Electrified.

The most important narrow-gauge railway system is that of the Rhätische Bahn, Canton of Graubünden, in the St. Gall consular district, in which the Canton exercises decisive influence, as it owns a majority of the stock. The Confederation contributed \$2,509,000 to the cost of this railway. The road connects the valleys of Graubünden and make such resorts as St. Moritz and Davos easily accessible.

In the next few years the St. Gotthard Railroad will be electrified. Electric power is already used on the Lötschbergbahn and in the Simplon Tunnel, and on several minor lines. It is planned to electrify gradually all the State railways. The Rhätische Bahn is also to be electrified. The street railways of Switzerland are, almost without exception, electric.

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SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 518 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
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CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency -----	23317	Machinery, tanning -----	23314
Brushes -----	23309, 23319	Machines, sewing -----	23319
Canned goods -----	23310	Mirrors -----	23319
Chemical products -----	23312	Neckties -----	23319
Clothing -----	23309, 23319	Needles -----	23319
Cutlery -----	23310	Novelties -----	23309
Dolls -----	23319	Oils, mineral -----	23318
Drills, metal -----	23313	Office supplies -----	23309, 23319
Dyes -----	23309	Perfumery -----	23309
Food products -----	23310	Razors -----	23319
Garters -----	23319	Speedometers -----	23316
Hosiery -----	23309, 23315	Suitings -----	23309
Ink -----	23309	Suspenders -----	23319
Kitchen utensils -----	23309	Watches and chains -----	23319
Machinery, extracting -----	23311		

23309.†—A general commission and paper firm in Brazil, with a branch office in the United States, desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of men's suitings, hosiery, underwear, shirtings, perfumery, novelties, buttons, dyes, inks, stationery, office supplies, brushes, and kitchen utensils. References.

23310.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for wholesale quantities of canned fish, lobster, fruit, vegetables, and meat; lard, hams, and tongues. Quotations should be made c. l. f. French or Italian port. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23311.†—A man in Salvador desires full information relative to the requisite machinery for extracting alkaloids from cinchona, and methods of packing quinine for export.

23312.*—A merchant in Spain wishes to purchase chemical products used in photography. He also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Prices should be quoted c. l. f. Spanish port. The goods are to be purchased on credit. Correspondence in English. References.

23313.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for metal drills in sizes of 1 to 20 millimeters. Illustrations of the kind of drills desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 82533.) Quotations should be made c. l. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23314.*—A company in Brazil would like to have catalogues of tanning machinery, together with price lists, terms, etc. Time required for delivery should be stated.

23315.*—A commission agent in France wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of women's hosiery. Prices should be quoted c. l. f. French port. Correspondence in English. References.

23316.*—A man in Spain is in the market for speedometers for automobiles. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Cash will be paid upon receipt of goods. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23317.†—A man in Cuba desires to represent American manufacturers. No particular line of goods is specified. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23318.*—A merchant in Switzerland wishes to import 33,000 pounds of American mineral oils. Quotations should be made c. l. f. Marseille or Cette. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23319.*—A man in Brazil is in the market for dolls, mirrors, neckties, penholders, pencils, shirts, watches and chains, suspenders, garters, cutlery, razors, brushes, women's and children's clothing, needles, and sewing machines. Correspondence in Portuguese. References.

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No. 299 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 21 1916

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EXPORTATION OF WINE FROM DENMARK.

The American minister at Copenhagen states that the British authorities are now requiring guaranties that American as well as Spanish wines imported into Denmark will not be reexported.

IMPORTING BOX AND CASE BOARDS INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Oct. 6.]

In some quarters in the United States there has been a tendency to interpret the willingness of the British Government to permit the importation of box and case boards (see Foreign Tariff Notes, No. 21, p. 178) as entitling exporters to ship to this country lumber of the dimensions ordinarily used for the manufacture of boxes and cases produced from hard woods. Other manufacturers have been disposed to consider coffins, trunks, and perhaps other articles, as boxes and cases. Information has been received from the Controller of Import Restrictions that permission will be granted to import only such box and case boards as are suitable for the manufacture of common packing cases, and it will be necessary that the intending importer satisfy the controller that this is the case and give assurances that the lumber will be used only for such purposes.

[The general import prohibition on manufactures of wood was modified as regards boards for boxes and cases, according to a proclamation issued in June, 1916.]

AMERICAN COTTON GINNED.

A preliminary report from the United States Bureau of the Census shows that the number of running bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1916 prior to December 13, 1916, counting round as half bales and excluding linters, was 10,845,989, compared with 10,306,309 bales for the corresponding period in 1915, and 13,972,229 for the period in 1914. The statistics include 183,403 round bales for 1916; 100,925 bales for 1915; 42,796 for 1914. The number of sea-island bales included is 110,448 for 1916; 84,110 for 1915; and 71,401 for 1914. The distribution of sea-island cotton for 1916, by States, is: Florida, 34,728; Georgia, 73,395; and South Carolina, 2,325.

AMERICAN PURCHASES OF TEXTILE GOODS FROM BRADFORD.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Dec. 7.]

The declared value of the exports to the United States from the Bradford consular district for November was \$1,387,415, a decrease of \$1,501,496 as compared with November, 1915. This decrease, however, is more than accounted for by the total absence, on account of the embargo, of shipments of raw fleece wool, which amounted in November, 1915, to \$1,772,590.

There was a decline in the shipments of wool noils and wastes, the comparative figures being \$16,853 last month and \$56,785 in November, 1915. No wool tops were shipped last month. and there was a decline in mohair tops from \$12,702 to \$4,378.

Wool yarn, consisting chiefly of mixtures of wool and mohair, increased from \$824 to \$2,748, while mohair yarn showed a marked advance from \$1,864 to \$45,354.

Spun silk yarn, owing to the present restrictions on exports of the white silk yarn and other causes, declined from \$77,294 to \$59,485. Prices for such yarn have been steadily advancing during the year, and at present they stand at a higher figure than the trade has known for many years, if ever before.

Cotton yarns increased from \$13,527 to \$27,641; these consisted chiefly of counts above 50 and ranging to over 100.

Shipments of Worsted, Woolen, Mohair, and Cotton Cloths.

Worsted cloths continue to decline on account of the high prices now prevailing which have operated against the placing of fresh orders. The exports in November, 1915, were valued at \$82,479 and last month only \$39,529. A large proportion of these cloths are for shoe-top purposes.

Woolen cloths, chiefly fancy woven and for use for women's cloaks, etc., increased to \$83,978 as compared with \$76,992.

Mohair cloths declined from \$104,912 to \$96,189, and wool dress goods, coat linings, etc., fell off from \$167,777 to \$99,829.

The item of principal interest for last month is the marked increase in shipments of cotton cloths, chiefly cotton linings, dyed and mercerized, which advanced from \$376,096 in November, 1915, to \$716,968.

MERSEY BOARD INCREASES DOCK RATES AND DUES.

[Vice Consul Hugh H. Watson, Liverpool, England, Nov. 24.]

The Mersey Docks and Harbor Board has officially announced an increase of 15 per cent in rates and dues, making a total increase on published rates of 25 per cent. The last previous advance was one of 10 per cent on December 1, 1911.

The board also has decided to alter transit rates so that foreign goods imported for export to foreign ports will henceforth pay the inward dock and town dues, and be exempted from outward dues. The concession allowed to foreign goods imported for export to coast-wise ports, of one-half of the inward dues, will be withdrawn. The advanced rates and the alteration in the transit charges will come into effect on January 1, 1917.

SILLO MACHINERY FOR ARGENTINA.

[Commercial Agent Frank H. von Motz, Buenos Aires, Nov. 4.]

Drought and the ravages of locusts have so reduced pasturage and the available supplies of fodder in Argentina during the past two months that the attention of planters and stock raisers has been focused on the feeding-stuff question and the advantages of silos are being discussed with new vigor. I am told that many silos of reinforced concrete are being erected by local contractors, and that in this climate they are preferred to imported wood or steel silos and can be built more cheaply. However that may be, the machinery for preparing ensilage and for filling the silos will have to be imported, and several American factories have already made arrangements for the sale of this class of machinery here. To get the best results it will be necessary to watch the introduction of silo machinery very carefully, for the volume of business that any manufacturer will obtain within the next two or three years will depend largely on the amount of educational work he is willing to do. Having a man on the ground, one who thoroughly understands the work and who knows how to assist the Buenos Aires jobber, will be one of the most effective methods of extending sales.

When I wrote a report on silos last May, I gave the opinions of those who had been closely identified with the importation of implements and farm machinery for many years. Their opinions were no doubt based on information gathered from their own salesmen and from estancieros (farmers). At that time none of them thought the silo business would reach even moderate proportions. That the situation has changed is apparent to everyone and the reason for the wide difference in opinion is that the cattlemen, having experienced ample rainfalls for several years, did not look far enough ahead and think what they would do in a dry year like the present one.

It has been stated by those who are taking a keen interest in the development of the silo business that a ton of ensilage of green Indian corn can be prepared in Argentina for approximately \$0.90 American gold, as compared with the \$35 to \$40 a ton now asked for alfalfa.

[The earlier report to which Mr. von Motz refers was incorporated in his monograph, "Markets for Agricultural Implements and Machinery in Argentina," published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as Special Agents Series, No. 125, and obtainable from any of the branch offices of the bureau or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Price, 10 cents.]

CHINESE LECTURES ON FORESTRY.

[John R. Arnold, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Oct. 24.]

Popular lectures on the importance of forestry to China have recently been given in Peking under the auspices of the Chinese Forest Service, of which an American, formerly Chief of the Philippine Bureau of Forestry, is codirector. The lectures have been given by a Chinese official of the service, who is a graduate of the Yale Forest School and has published valuable material in Chinese on the subject. They are accompanied by an exhibition of Chinese woods.

SOUTH AFRICA DISCUSSES GOLD OUTLOOK.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, Nov. 3.]

A discussion of the two questions of prices and gold supply appeared this week in the Cape Times under the topic "The Gold Outlook." A résumé of varying opinions regarding the possible relation between gold production and prices is given, and the effect of present world conditions upon the prospects for future development on the Rand is a subject of comment. The newspaper's statement in part is:

In his evidence before the State Mining Commission, Prof. R. A. Lehfeldt, of the South African School of Mines, advanced the proposition that it was wise to be cautious in mining development on the Rand until the economic horizon had cleared. His hypothesis is that for 20 years past there has been a large overproduction of gold, and that the rise in prices has been the result of that overproduction. Prices are high to-day, and he anticipates that they will remain at a high level for a considerable period after the war. Hence, his argument runs, it would be good policy to nurse the gold output. If it is increased as the result of new development, the level of prices will tend to remain high, and gold mining will become comparatively unprofitable.

Prof. Lehfeldt's theory rests mainly on the assumption that there has been in the past 20 years an overproduction of gold. But it is a position which has not been universally conceded by economists. A vast number of factors before the war were operating to raise prices; not the least important among them was the general rise in the standard of living and the increased wages won by the producers. W. T. Layton, whose "Study of prices" embodies the results of very extensive statistical research, compiled three years ago a chart showing the production of gold over a period of 127 years in relation to an index number representing the average price of a large number of commodities. The chart shows only a very shadowy correspondence between the production of gold and the price of commodities, though it is true enough that at the time of the Californian and Australian gold discoveries there was a very sharp general rise in prices.

Temporary Suspension During South African War.

On the other hand, as supporting Prof. Lehfeldt's view, we have the fact that, according to De Launay, the temporary suspension of the Transvaal gold output during the South African War was followed in 1906 by a scarcity of money such as had not been known for 20 years, with a consequent rise in the value of gold. These effects speedily passed with the resumption of the industry on the Rand, and they certainly illustrated the world-wide influence of the South African gold output upon prices. But in the past 10 years—we are not speaking of the present war period—there has been a vast expansion of international trade and exchange, and if the margin between adequate production and underproduction was sufficiently narrow in 1900-1906 for the suspension of the Rand output to produce considerable dislocation, it is hardly credible that the world's gold production to-day exceeds so greatly the world's requirements as to affect materially the level of prices.

Many shrewd bankers are of opinion that as soon as the war terminates there will be an unparalleled scramble for gold. But presumably the gold can be obtained only by production for export. In other words, there seems likely to be an intense industrial activity, leading to a fall in prices as supply adjusts itself to demand. If such a prognostication is correct, then Prof. Lehfeldt's fears for the future are not likely to be realized. With prices falling to a pre-war level, Rand working costs, which have shown themselves on the whole remarkably unsusceptible even to the present high level of prices, may be expected to show at any rate no increase, and the difficulty is more likely to be a difficulty of securing capital than a rise in working costs to a point rendering gold mining unprofitable.

Necessarily, however, all speculations as to the course of events after the close of the war must be mere speculations. The uncertainty of the economic outlook might reasonably be urged as a good reason for caution in any State gold-mining venture, but in the absence of evidence very much more conclusive than has yet been advanced, it is difficult to believe that the danger of overproduction will act as a deterrent to those who have already made up their minds that the prospects on the East Rand offer a reasonably sound opening for the investment of capital.

LIST OF SEAGOING VESSELS OF THE UNITED STATES.

"Seagoing vessels of the United States with official numbers and signal letters," edition of 1916, has been published by the United States Bureau of Navigation. This is the forty-eighth annual list of such vessels prepared by the United States, and is the thirty-third annual list submitted by the Bureau of Navigation.

The volume constitutes Part VI of the list of merchant vessels of the United States for the year ended June 30, 1916. It is designed especially for the use of signal stations and the masters of such vessels. The vessels that have distinguishing signal letters are classed as follows: Seagoing merchant vessels of the United States; yachts; seagoing merchant vessels arranged according to names of owners; vessels belonging to the Navy, the Quartermaster Corps, the Engineer Corps, the Coast Guard, the Lighthouse Service, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Bureau of Fisheries, and the Bureau of Navigation; lists of merchant, Navy, Army, and Coast Guard vessels equipped with radio apparatus, and stations belonging to the Army and Navy.

Information relating to merchant vessels includes official number of the vessels, signal letters, rig (with decks and masts), name, tonnage (gross and net), register dimensions (length, breadth, and depth), year built, place where it was built, home port, and name of managing owner. There are colored plates of the flags of various countries and shipping lines.

Copies of this publication may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 25 cents each.

BRANCHES OF JAPANESE BANKS ABROAD.

[Weekly Bulletin Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Dec. 11.]

The Nichi Nichi, in an article dealing with Japan's future as a commercial nation, approves the schemes of the Yokohama Specie Bank and other leading banking institutions to open branches or agencies abroad. Already the Yokohama Specie Bank has established a branch in Singapore, the Bank of Taiwan in New York, and the Sumitomo Bank in San Francisco. The Mitsui Bank and other institutions are likely soon to follow suit. In this connection the paper ventures the opinion that the leading banks will immediately establish branches in Russia, India, South America, Australia, and various places in the South Pacific, where, as a result of the continuation of the war, new markets have recently been found for Japanese articles. It is suggested that the Japanese banks follow the example set by the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation and invest funds in various productive enterprises carried on either by foreigners or Japanese or conjointly. The future of Japan depends upon the development of its foreign trade, and to attain this end nothing can be more effective than the investment of funds in foreign countries where there are lucrative markets for Japanese articles.

The engineering workshops throughout the Union of South Africa are equipped with machine tools and appliances utilizing about 26,000 brake horsepower.

SHOE AND LEATHER INDUSTRY OF GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Dec. 4.]

During the year 1915, Guatemala imported boots, shoes, and leather to the value of \$94,660, of which \$87,199 worth were brought from the United States, \$2,145 worth from Germany, \$2,047 worth from England, and the rest from Spain, France, Netherlands, China, and Japan.

It costs from \$7 to \$8 to purchase a good pair of American-made shoes in Guatemala. The freight charge from New York or New Orleans to Puerto Barrios is \$5 United States gold per 100 pounds. The customs duty on leather, not specified, is $17\frac{1}{2}$ cents United States gold and $17\frac{1}{2}$ cents Guatemalan currency per kilo of 2.2 pounds. An import tax of \$1.50 United States gold and \$1.50 Guatemalan currency, per kilo, is assessed on shoes.

Output of Local Factories—Market Conditions.

The high price of imported shoes has stimulated native industry, and as a result there is a modern factory now operating in Guatemala City. The plant has a capacity of 300 pairs of shoes per day and is actually turning out 130 pairs per day. Another shoe-manufacturing plant in Guatemala City is partly equipped with machinery but can not be described as modern. There are 40 other establishments for making shoes in Guatemala City, and the total output for the city is about 500 pairs per day. For the Republic of Guatemala it is estimated that the daily output of shoes is 750 pairs, although a great many individual shoemakers do not report to the Government, so that it is difficult to obtain reliable data.

The native shoes for women are retailed at from 100 pesos, Guatemalan currency (\$2.50) per pair up to 180 pesos, Guatemalan currency (\$4.50). Above this price the native shoes can not compete with the better grades of American-made women's shoes, which are sold in Guatemala for an average of \$6 per pair. These shoes cost at the factory in the United States an average of \$3.50 per pair. A small quantity of the more expensive shoes for women are imported from the United States.

The shoe trade of the Republic, which is now almost wholly controlled by American dealers, was shared before the European war principally with England, Germany, and Austria. The better grades of slippers and dancing pumps now imported from the United States used to come chiefly from Austria.

Local dealers do not consider the outlook bright for the sale of American-made shoes in Guatemala during the coming year, on account of the low price of coffee, the disturbed condition of exchange, and other causes operating to impair the purchasing power of Guatemalan consumers.

Native-made shoes for men cost from 130 pesos, Guatemalan currency (\$3.25 U. S. gold) up to \$5 and \$6 U. S. gold per pair. Above this price they do not compete with the American-made shoes. The native shoes, however, are beyond the means of the average peon, or Indian, the majority of whom either wear crude sandals or remain barefooted.

Exports of Hides—Tanneries.

Besides the hides used in the Guatemala tanneries, the Republic of Guatemala, during 1915, exported 104,593 hides, valued at \$506,961. Of this total, 100,931 hides were sent to the United States, 3,224 to Spain, and the remainder to Italy and England. Some of the hides were brought into Guatemala from Honduras and Salvador and exported through the ports of this Republic. Hides are subjected to an export tax of \$1.50 United States gold per 100 kilos.

It is estimated that there are 50 tanneries in the Republic. They are all of small capacity, the largest being the plant of Herrera & Co., at Antigua, which tans 10 hides per day. The methods used are antiquated, what is known as the "lay-away" process being chiefly employed. By this method the hides are stretched out and covered with layers of oak bark, the tanning process requiring 3 to 5 months. At Antigua, Guatemala, there are 10 tanneries, having an average production of 5 hides per day. Outside of Antigua the tanneries have an output of about 25 hides per day.

The leather is used as soles for shoes (the leather for shoe covers being imported), and is also extensively employed in the local manufacture of saddlery, horse collars, harness, and belting. Sole leather is subjected to an export tax of \$2 United States gold per 100 kilos, and there is also an export tax of 5 cents Guatemalan currency for each hide or side of leather, assessed for the benefit of the National Hospital.

Hides in Guatemala City are worth on an average 40 cents United States gold per pound. They are dried in the shade, and are considered superior to the sun-dried hides produced in the country districts, which are worth on an average 38 cents United States gold per pound.

FOREST WEALTH ON ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT LAND.

[Consul William Dawson, jr., Rosario, Nov. 8.]

La Nacion of Buenos Aires calls attention to the potential wealth of forests situated on Government lands in the Territory of Misiones, and particularly to wide tracts lying between San Pedro and the Brazilian frontier. It is estimated that the region contains 1,000,000 workable pines (*Araucaria brasiliensis*) of the kind exploited in important sawmills in Brazil.

Most of the trees have a diameter of about 5 feet and are 130 feet in height. The average net product per tree should be about 8 cubic meters (282.5 cubic feet) of lumber, worth about \$163 at Buenos Aires. Expenses of extraction and transportation are estimated at \$70, leaving an approximate net profit per tree of \$93. La Nacion states that the lumber could compete to advantage with similar products from Brazil and, as far as quality is concerned, with the best grades imported from the United States.

In order to work these forests the problem of transporting the products from the interior of the Territory would have to be solved. La Nacion recommends the construction of railways of the "economic" type from the timber regions to various points on the Upper Parana River, the lumber to be shipped thence by water to the consuming markets.

SPANISH TRADE FOR NINE MONTHS.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 16.]

The import and export statistics of Spain during the first nine months of 1916 show a continued increase in values compared with the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1914. The total values of imports and exports during the first nine months of the last two years were: 1915, imports \$149,955,652, exports \$164,171,130; 1916, imports \$177,406,495, exports \$184,847,972.

The balance of trade in Spain's favor during the first nine months of 1916 amounts to \$7,441,477 compared with \$14,215,478 during the corresponding period of 1915. The importation of gold and silver in coin and bullion, however, amounted to \$54,440,456 against an export of only \$2,252,392 worth, so that aside from these items the exports amounted in 1916 to nearly \$60,000,000 more than the imports. During the corresponding period of 1915 the value of exports over imports, exclusive of gold and silver, was only about half the amount thus far credited to 1916.

Changes in the Imports.

The import of raw materials shows a marked decrease during the first nine months of 1916. Raw cotton fell from 115,724 tons in 1915 to 73,954 tons; lime of all kinds, cement, and puzzolana, from 46,789 tons in 1914 and 18,074 tons in 1915 to 10,682 tons in 1916; tar and pitch of petroleum and other tars and mineral pitches from 28,770 tons in 1915 to 22,924 tons in 1916; while iron in plates or sheets fell from 2,250 tons in 1915 to 1,828 tons in 1916. Decreased imports under drugs and chemicals were most marked in sesame, linseed, and other oleaginous seeds, decreasing from 54,042 tons in 1915 to 37,670 tons in 1916; vegetable dyeing extracts, from 4,296 to 2,268 tons; superphosphates of lime and Thomas' slag, from 49,418 to 18,701 tons; feculae for industrial use, from 7,444 to 4,459 tons; while there was a general falling off in tanning and dyeing barks and woods, vegetable products employed in medicines, ochers and coloring earths, printing inks, and many important pharmaceutical products.

Imports of wheat during the periods under consideration fell from 345,364 tons in 1914 and 312,286 tons in 1915 to 288,491 tons in 1916, and corn from 156,458 tons in 1914 and 128,535 tons in 1915 to 73,414 tons in 1916.

The imports of manufactured articles increased during the first three quarters of 1916 compared with the corresponding period of 1915, chiefly in the category of manufactures of metals.

Increases and Decreases in the Export Trade.

The greatest increase in exports during the first nine months of 1916 was in food products, among which were oranges, which rose from 340,406 tons in 1915 to 376,739 tons in 1916; olive oil, from 52,006 to 74,961 tons; canned vegetables, from 6,848 to 7,947 tons; canned sardines, from 5,980 to 10,414 tons; and other preserved fish, from 3,556 tons in 1915 to 5,527 tons in 1916; while the export of wines and other alcoholic beverages was more than double that of 1915. On the other hand the export of manufactured articles as a whole shows a considerable decrease compared with 1915, although still far in excess of the prices realized in 1914. This decrease was

greatest in woolen manufactures, woolen knit goods falling from 1,084 tons in the first nine months of 1915 to 364 tons in 1916; all wool cloth, from 1,091 to 392 tons, and mixed cotton and woolen cloth from 2,511 to 286 tons. While cotton goods as a whole were exported in decreased quantities, cotton yarn increased from 1,915 tons during the first nine months of 1915 to 4,601 tons in 1916, and dyed and printed cotton textiles from 4,627 to 5,578 tons; but white cotton textiles decreased from 4,923 tons to 1,787 tons and cotton knitted garments from 3,284 tons to 1,400 tons in 1915 and 1916, respectively.

METERS FOR ELECTRIC PLANTS IN CHINA.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, Oct. 11.]

Hankow has four electric-lighting companies. Their names, character of current, and supposed nationality are: Hankow Light & Power Co., alternating, British; Hankow Waterworks & Electric Light Co., direct, Chinese; Melchers & Co., alternating, German; Tai Shoh Electric Co., alternating, Japanese.

Information is not available regarding the number of meters used by the first-mentioned company. The Hankow Waterworks & Electric Light Co. installed about 1,700 meters and has under contemplation the installation of alternating current instead of direct. This firm would be pleased to receive information concerning meters, particularly for the new current. The meters used by this company are American and Ferranti.

Messrs. Melchers & Co. use approximately 400 220-volt meters manufactured by Siemens-Schuckert Werke indicating in kilowatt hours. This firm would be interested in receiving information concerning any other makes of meters, particularly from 1 to 10 amperes each.

The Tai Shoh Electric Co. has installed about 200 meters in the Japanese Concession, but the make is not known. The firm would be interested in receiving information concerning any other makes.

Plants in District Outside of Hankow.

Outside of Hankow, but in this consular district, are the following establishments: The electric-light plant owned by the Hanyang Iron & Steel Works for the company's own use at Hanyang; the Wuchang electric-light plant owned by the Government but of very small importance commercially (it is possible that neither of these uses meters); and the Kuang Ming Electric Light Co., at Ichang, China, which has installed 62 meters of 3, 5, and 10 amperes each.

Another company is in contemplation, at Shasi, but it is by no means certain that it will be established.

[A list of firms in Hankow which would be interested in electric meters may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82042.]

Peruvian Flower and Fruit Exposition Postponed.

The exposition of flowers, fruit, and vegetables that was to have been held in Lima this year has been postponed to next year by an order of the Department of Fomento published in *El Peruano* of November 11.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING INSURANCE COMPANIES.**CHILE.**

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Oct. 6.]

In Chile the laws and regulations governing the insurance business are centralized for the entire Republic, and the political subdivisions have no control over insurance companies nor their operations. The law governing insurance companies in Chile is as follows:

Article 1. No foreign insurance company of any kind can do business or establish agencies in Chile without the authorization of the President of the Republic. Paragraph 1 of article 467 of the Penal Code shall apply to those who entitle themselves as agents of insurance companies which have not been authorized by the President of the Republic or who exercise the functions of such.

The decree that authorizes the existence or operations of an insurance company can be revoked for the infraction of any of the obligations imposed by this law.

Article 2. In order to obtain authorization it shall be necessary: (1) To show that the company has been organized in accordance with the laws of the country in which it has been established; (2) To invest in real estate, free from incumbrances and situated in Chile, or in national securities, or deposit in the National Treasury, or the office designated by the President of the Republic, the amount corresponding to the category or class of the company and the nature of the insurance in which the company engages itself.

Two Categories of Fire and Life Insurance Companies.

Article 3. For the purpose of the deposit demanded in the preceding article there are established two class or categories of fire insurance companies.

The insurance companies whose paid-up capital is 500,000 pesos or more shall be of the first class, and those whose capital is less than the said sum shall be of the second class. To compute the amount of capital there shall be taken into consideration the reserve funds and accumulated funds.

Companies of insurance against fire or other risks, belonging to the first class, shall deposit 300,000 pesos, and those of the second class shall deposit 200,000 pesos. Companies insuring solely against marine and agricultural risks shall deposit 50,000 pesos. The deposit may consist of currency (Chilean paper), or sterling money, in bonds of the public internal or external debt, or in credits (letras) of the Caja de Crédito Hipotecario (Mortgage Credit Bank), or other analogous establishments qualified by the President of the Republic. Said bonds or credits shall be estimated (appraised) annually at the current market price by the President of the Republic. The deposit shall be considered as a chattel guarantee (as though pawned), for the obligations which the companies may contract in Chile in favor of the insured and the real estate referred to in part 2 of article 2 can not be encumbered nor exceed half the funds accumulated in Chile by the companies.

Article 4. The life insurance companies shall also be of first and second class. The President of the Republic shall fix the category of these companies after a study of their balance sheet of operations executed in the country.

Article 5. Life insurance companies shall constitute their guaranty by a method selected among the following: (1) Demonstrate to the Minister of the Treasury that they have acquired real estate, or have invested 400,000 pesos if of the first class, or 300,000 pesos if of the second class, in the securities and in the form set forth in section 2 of article 2 of this law. (2) Deposit in the fiscal treasury and invest in the securities referred to in the cited section and in the form therein established, 50 per cent of the values of the premiums received for the service of insurance contracted each year.

Article 6. It shall not be permitted that the guaranty deposits fixed by this law be withdrawn without previous justification and an advice of six months to the effect that the risks or operations making the guaranties necessary have terminated. The deposits referred to can only be embargoed (taken) or retained to make payment of contracted insurance. However, the President of the Republic may authorize the substitution of any of the securities deposited by other equivalents.

License Fees—Foreign Companies.

Article 7. First-class companies insuring against fire or other risks shall pay an annual license of 3,000 pesos; those of the second class shall pay 2,000 pesos. Companies insuring against maritime and agricultural risks exclusively shall pay a license of 500 pesos. Life insurance companies shall pay a license of 4,000 pesos if of the first class, and 3,000 pesos if of the second class.

When the insurance companies are established abroad, the license shall only affect the principal agency which they may have in Chile. The licenses established by this law shall be fiscal, and shall be applied to both national and foreign insurance companies, and shall be paid in two equal installments, in the months of January and July of each year.

Article 8. The foreign insurance companies to which this law refers shall be considered resident in Chile and subject to the judicial and administrative authorities, and in general to the laws of the country, for all the obligations they may contract. Their judicial representation, without restriction of powers, will correspond to the principal agent which they may have in Chile, whatever may be the terms of the policies or the powers of the agent. The responsibility of the life insurance companies resident abroad shall begin the moment their representative in Chile receives the premium and issues the policy.

Capital—Report on Operations.

Article 9. Insurance companies can not be organized with a paid-up capital of less than 100,000 pesos and without destining to reserve funds at least the quarter part of the utilities until completing 200,000 pesos.

Article 10. The insurance companies shall present every six months to the Ministry of Finance a report of their operations during the previous semester for publication in the *Diario Oficial*. This report shall state the premiums received, losses, insurance paid, and pending risks in Chile.

The account and annual balance of the national companies and of the agencies of foreign companies shall be published in a local paper where the company has its principal agency.

The agencies of foreign companies shall make an annual account of the state of the funds of the company in Chile, specifying the sums received in premiums, the administrative costs, payment of policies, values sent or received from abroad, manner of investment of values in the country, special reserves, profits and losses, and other details which will show the movement and operations of the company in Chile.

The agencies of foreign companies to which the previous paragraph refers must likewise publish in Chile a résumé of the general balance of their operations.

The account to which the third paragraph refers shall be published in the form established in the second paragraph.

Article 11. The President of the Republic shall designate fiscal office inspectors to oversee the operations, books, and accounts of the national companies or agencies of foreign companies. Said companies or agencies must immediately show their books and files to the inspectors or be fined 1,000 pesos. The misrepresenting or falsifying of the balances and accounts to which this law refers will be punished according to articles 193 and 194 of the Penal Code.

Article 12. For fiscal advantage a tax of two per thousand is established on the first premium and on the renewal receipts of all policies for fire insurance. This tax shall not affect reinsurance. The investments or deposits which the foreign companies may make and the capital of the Chilean companies shall be exempt from the property tax.

Article 13. The value of the life insurance policies goes exclusively in favor of the beneficiary.

Article 14. The payment of the insured values on policies issued by the companies of which this law treats shall be made, without previous consultation of the home offices, as soon as the loss has occurred and been established.

Article 15. The licenses which the insurance companies at present pay the municipalities according to the law of December 22, 1866, are hereby suppressed.

Later Provisions.

Apart from the taxes and license fees set forth in the foregoing law (1712), the law 3091, passed on April 5 and published in the *Diario Oficial* of April 13, 1916, states that stock companies shall pay a tax:

on capital of three per thousand, which may be increased to four per thousand if the President considers it necessary to include the item in the annual budget. Chilean insurance companies are exempt from this tax by law 3091 previously referred to. Taxes and licenses are paid once to the National Government, and business can be conducted anywhere in the country.

How the Insurance Business is Carried On.

Insurance business is generally done through agents on a commission basis, although a foreign company might have a local manager to arrange for employing agents all over the country and pay him a salary. The commission on insurance might in rare cases be as high as 30 per cent, but generally ranging from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 25 per cent of gross premiums, according to conditions.

Statistics of insurance placed and premiums paid is reported to and published in the *Diario Oficial* by the National Government every three months. Taxes are collected on premiums. Once a year a record is published of losses sustained and other data commonly included in an annual report to stockholders relating to the operations of the company.

Insurance rates are fixed by agreement among the companies, all of which are members of the "Asociación Chilena de Aseguradores Contra Incendio," Casilla 725, Valparaíso, Chile. There are insurance maps and surveys of the larger cities available for the use of the companies. The company joins the association and the association sees to it that the company is supplied with all such data.

The national sentiment is opposed to the handling of insurance business by foreign companies, although it is permitted.

There are no legal restrictions or requirements regarding construction of buildings.

Fire Protection in Santiago.

There are 12 fire companies in Santiago, 2 possessing automobile engines and 1 an automobile ladder. Another company is to receive an automobile ladder soon. The fire-alarm signal system is poor; the police notify the fire station and fire bells are rung; considerable delay is caused. In the center of the city there are three and four hydrants in each block, which measures 125 meters, or 410 feet, each way. Outside the center there are generally two and three hydrants to each block. The hydrants are not in good condition, about 25 per cent being out of order, but it is stated that all hydrants are being overhauled and put in working order.

The water pressure in the city varies from about 30 pounds in the morning to 40 pounds at night.

In 1913 (being the latest year for which complete statistics are available) there were 58 fire alarms in Santiago, of which 4 were false, and in 11 other cases the services of the department were not necessary on account of fires having been extinguished before the arrival of the department. The losses caused at the 33 fires at which the services of the department were necessary were 1,338,400 paper pesos. Excluding 3 large fires with losses of more than 300,000 pesos each, the average loss of the remaining 30 fires was 34,346 pesos each. Fires occurred as follows: In factories, 10; in dwellings, hospitals, colleges, etc., 27; in commercial establishments, 21.

All values mentioned, both for rates and other purposes, are in Chilean paper pesos. The value of the paper peso at the time of writing was about 21 cents United States currency.

[A copy of an insurance policy in general use, a table showing rates of fire insurance in the city of Santiago, a recent publication which contains insurance laws and regulations (in Spanish) and the accumulated profits of the various companies, and the report of the Santiago fire department, were transmitted and can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1975.]

PERU.

[Consul General William H. Handley, Callao-Lima, Oct. 24.]

Prior to December 21, 1895, the insurance business in Peru was covered entirely by the agencies of some 15 foreign companies. A law was passed on that date requiring that foreign agencies should deposit £3,000 (\$14,600) in order to guarantee compliance with their obligations, but these companies, notwithstanding that they were making profits, declined to conform with the stipulation, and liquidated their business. Native offices then began to operate and did successful business at lower premiums than the foreign offices had exacted. In 1896 the foreign offices resumed business, 11 agencies competing with the native companies, thus again bringing down premiums.

On October 30, 1899, another law was enacted but did not become effective until November 20, 1901, stipulating that in Peru all insurance companies or agencies must possess a paid-up capital of £20,000 (\$97,330) of which 50 per cent should be invested in landed properties of the Republic and 50 per cent in bonds of the public debt or the municipalities or other institutions, which stocks should remain as guaranty for compliance with obligations. As a result of the enforcement of the law of 1899 the foreign companies again declined to submit to the law and again liquidated and abandoned the field.

Protecting the Policyholders.

As regards the guaranty of £20,000 now required to conduct an insurance business in Peru, efforts are being made at present on the part of the seven national insurance companies to have a law passed requiring the guaranty for the policyholders to be 40 per cent of the total of the premiums collected in Peru; that is, a deposit that will gradually increase so long as the company has business here.

The only tax that insurance companies are required to pay is that of the "patente," which is 7 per cent on the net income. There is also a stamp tax of 50 centavos (24 cents American gold) for every £100 (\$486) collected in premiums.

Fire, Marine, and Life Insurance Companies.

Respecting the domestic fire and marine insurance companies (there being no foreign fire or marine insurance companies in Peru) they have formed in Lima a committee called "Comité de Aseguradores," whereby they work under mutual agreement. One of the articles of agreement states that they are not to employ soliciting agents.

All insurance companies are required to publish semiannually the balance sheets of their local business. Practically the whole of the

insurance business is done in Lima. In the rest of the Republic the fire and life insurance companies do but little business, due to the difficulty to keep proper control of the business as regards the nature of the damages, owing to the lack of rapid communication.

The only three foreign life insurance companies still doing business in Peru are : "Sun Life" of Canada, "La Previsora" of Buenos Aires, and "La Sud-America" of Brazil. Although nominally foreign they have now become practically native companies, having had to comply with the rules and regulations of the new law of 1901.

Capital and Earnings of Fire and Marine Insurance Companies.

The following table shows the capital, surplus, and net earnings of Peruvian fire and marine insurance companies for the year ended July 31, 1916, the amounts being given in pounds sterling (£=\$4.86) :

Companies.	Established.	Capital.	Surplus.	Net earnings.	Losses paid.
Rimac.....	1896	£225,000	£88,552	£20,000	£9,000
Internacional.....	1895	200,000	78,338	16,000	4,000
Italia.....	1896	200,000	35,928	9,000	3,000
La Popular.....	1904	200,000	32,680	8,000	2,000
La Nacional.....	1904	250,000	20,370	5,000	2,000
La Urbana.....	1902	100,000	10,600	3,000	3,000
Peru.....	1903	250,000	10,500	2,000	6,000

The two companies "La Urbana" and "Peru" were consolidated on August 29, 1916, under the name of "Compañías Unidas de Seguros."

[A typewritten copy of the insurance law of Peru can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82016.]

SNOWPLOW TYPES ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Dec. 6.]

An order was recently placed with a Nova Scotia company by Canadian railways for 20 snowplows to be completed with as little delay as possible. The specifications differ only in slight degree from those in previous orders. In the new plows the large drawbar castings on the front are extended to enable them to be coupled together, if necessary, "nose to nose". The side wings are remodeled and have curved plates instead of straight ones. An ice cutter is fitted to the forward truck.

The essential particulars of the new plows are: Length over all, 52 feet $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; width over side sills, 8 feet $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, rail on top of cupola, about 11 feet 3 inches; height, rail to top of cupola, about 14 feet 10 inches; width over wings extended, 16 feet; extreme width cupola, 8 feet 9 inches; extreme length cupola, 4 feet $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; truck center, 18 feet; wheel base leader truck, 4 feet 2 inches; wheel base rear truck, 5 feet 3 inches; weight, approximately 60,700 pounds; draft gear, tandem springs; couplers, 5 by 7 shank, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches end; air brakes, Westinghouse K. D. 812; trucks (front end), 30-ton truck; wheels, cast steel, 28 inches diameter; journal boxes, tender type; trucks (rear end), 30-ton standard; wheels, M. C. B., 33 inches; axles, M. C. B. standard; brake shoes, steel back; springs, M. C. B. class; brake beams, M. C. B.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua...	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.	do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

LOAN FOR SEWER WORKS IN AREQUIPA.

The Peruvian Congress has authorized the municipality of Arequipa to contract a loan for the sum of 101,000 pounds (\$491,516) to be used in sewer works for that city. The law as given in El Peruano of November 16 limits the interest on the proposed loan to 8 per cent and annual amortization to 2 per cent. The municipality will guarantee the loan by a part of its revenues, and the interest and amortization will be provided by newly created taxes, consisting of a sewer tax to be paid by owners of urban property on each lineal meter of frontage, taxes on native and imported beer, an export tax on borate shipped from the port of Mollendo, and a surtax of 2 per cent on imports through that port. In addition the departmental board and the municipality of Arequipa shall assign in their annual budgets 5 and 15 per cent, respectively, for the service of this loan.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South-
ern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG. Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency	23327	Office supplies	23321
Balls, rubber and tennis	23325	Oilcloth	23325
Buttons	23323	Piece goods	23323, 23325
Cuff links	23323	Pumps, water	23329
Cutlery	23323	Raincoats	23325
Gloves	23325	Razors	23323
Handkerchiefs	23325	Rubber cloth	23325
Hosiery	23325	Rubber heels	23325
Ink wells	23325	Safety pins	23323
Lamp chimneys	23328	Shoe laces	23324
Lanterns	23323	Thread	23325
Linoleum	23325	Tin plate	23322
Machines, adding	23321	Typewriters and supplies	23320, 23321
Machinery, fertilizer	23324	Underwear	23325
Machinery, glass	23326	Yarn	23325

23320.*—A company in Spain desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of typewriters. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23321.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for adding machines, typewriter supplies, office supplies, etc. Cash will be paid. Correspondence in English. References.

23322.*—A man in Norway desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of tin plate for canning industry. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23323.†—A firm in India desires to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of lanterns, buttons, cuff links, cutlery, glass inkwells, rubber heels, shoe laces, safety pins, razors, and piece goods. Samples, where possible, are desired. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Indian port.

23324.*—A merchant in Venezuela would like to receive catalogues and prices of machinery for incinerating and disinfecting garbage and preparing it for fertilizer. Correspondence in Spanish preferred, but English is acceptable.

23325.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for piece goods, hosiery, and underwear, rubber cloth, oilcloth, linoleum, rubber balls, tennis balls, raincoats, gloves, yarn, handkerchiefs, and thread. Further particulars as to quality and quantity of goods desired, quotations, payment, etc., may be obtained at the Bureau or its district offices. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23326.*—A company in Spain wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery for use in a glass factory. It is desired to get machines for reburning by gas and cutting goblets, tumblers, and other articles of blown glass; machinery for trimming the edges of tumblers, goblets, etc., after cutting; and machinery for polishing the bottoms of pressed tumblers. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23327.†—A commission merchant in Colombia desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line of goods is specified. Information as to commission desired, method of selling, packing and shipping instructions, etc., may be obtained at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to Misc. Exhibit 172.) References.

23328.*—A business man in Great Britain is in the market for lamp chimneys. Cash will be paid.

23329.*—A dealer in Spain desires to purchase water pumps. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Spanish port. Payment will be made within 30 days after arrival of merchandise in Spanish port. Correspondence in Spanish or French. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 300

Washington, D. C., Friday, December 22

1916

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CHANGES IN BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 20.]

Additional prohibitions of exportation are the following: To all destinations—jute wrappers and surat tares (cotton goods), other than coverings of goods allowed by the customs; strontium compounds and mixtures containing such. To all non-British destinations—bags and sacks wholly or partly of jute, other than coverings of goods allowed by the customs; jute threads, piece goods wholly or partly of jute, jute webbing, jute yarns; tungsten ores, including ferberite, hubnerite, scheelite, and wolframite. To all European countries except allied countries and Spain—bags, wrappers, or sacks not specifically prohibited, except unwoven paper bags, other than coverings of goods allowed by the customs; ferrets; China fiber, Mauritius fiber, Mexican fiber, Mexican istle fiber; wine.

[The above prohibitions are changes in the embargo list established by proclamation of May 10. The list is published in the British Board of Trade Journal, Supplement, Nov. 23. Changes since that date have been announced in COMMERCE REPORTS, the most recent notice having appeared in the issue of Dec. 18.]

FOREIGN TRADE OF ITALY.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Nov. 18.]

The foreign trade of Italy during the first eight months of 1916 reached a total of \$1,027,946,340. Exports amounted to \$295,170,638, a loss of \$50,615,075 as compared with the corresponding period of 1915. Imports totaled \$732,775,702, an increase of \$159,627,271 over the first eight months of 1915.

Exports to the United States were valued at \$31,288,501, a decrease of \$1,155,533 from the same period in 1915, while imports from the United States amounted to \$300,207,820, surpassing the 1915 figures by \$151,285,672. The balance of trade in favor of the United States is therefore almost tenfold.

Large quantities of glassware are reaching South Africa from Japan, Sweden, and the United States.

RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE IMPORTS INTO RUSSIA.

According to the latest information available, the Russian restrictions on private imports apply only to articles imported by way of Vladivostok and Archangel. It is understood that, owing to the congestion of traffic at Kola and at points on the trans-Siberian railway, such as Harbin, goods sent by other routes, while not actually prohibited, are subject to long delays.

Licenses for the importation of private goods via Vladivostok are issued by the Department of Commerce, Petrograd, upon application from the Russian consignee. Such applications must give a complete description of the goods to be shipped, stating the weight, cubic contents, quantity, class of goods, port of shipment, and name of the American shipper. Exporters should see that their consignees in Russia are provided with the necessary information concerning prospective shipments, so that action on applications may not be unnecessarily delayed.

If a license is granted, the Russian commercial attaché in New York, Mr. C. Medzikhovsky, 44 Whitehall Street, is notified by cable and informs the American shipper, who then requests the attaché to allot shipping space for the consignment.

Articles forwarded to Russia or Finland by way of Sweden must be accompanied by licenses issued by the Russian Government and certain additional documents are required. Detailed information regarding such shipments will be furnished upon application to the following New York banks: National Bank of Commerce, National City Bank, Irving National Bank, Bankers' Trust Co., Guaranty Trust Co.

Special Prohibition on Certain Goods.

The restrictions above referred to apply to all articles not imported for Government use. In addition thereto the proposed special import prohibition on certain classes of articles (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 20, 1916) should be considered. It is not definitely known whether these additional restrictions have been put into effect, and special inquiry should be made by American exporters having contracts with Russian consignees for the delivery of such goods. Some modifications will probably be made in the list (published in the above number of **COMMERCE REPORTS**) as finally promulgated. No information has as yet been received as to whether any licenses will be issued for the importation of goods subject to special prohibition.

[According to a notice published in the Board of Trade Journal for Nov. 30, 1916, an imperial decree, dated Oct. 28 (Nov. 10), 1916, authorized an import prohibition on articles of luxury, but the list of such goods has apparently not yet been published.]

Seeking Market for Tropical Products.

An American consular officer in French East Africa has transmitted the name of a local merchant who desires to enter into relations with American importers interested in tropical products, such as raffia and ureno lobata fiber, wax, vanilla, etc. Correspondence may be in French or English. The name of the inquirer can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 82673.

BRADFORD WOOL-TRADE CONDITIONS.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Dec. 7; see also COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 13, 1916.]

The Bradford wool market has been in a very unsettled and disturbed condition owing to the postponement of the London wool sales and the uncertainty as to future prospects of obtaining fresh supplies of wool. No definite announcement has yet been made regarding the Government's plans for handling the raw material, but at an important meeting held in Bradford to-day and attended by representatives of all sections of the wool trade an unofficial announcement was made that the wool sales will open in London next week. The statement was also made that the governmental commandeering of the colonial wool clip will not affect wool in Australia—no mention was made of New Zealand—that had prior to the announcement been bought and paid for. It was also stated that all wool not needed by the Government would be allowed to come up at the sales as usual. Even this unofficial statement has helped to remove some of the tension in the market.

At the monthly conference of the Wool Exports Subcommittee held in London yesterday it was announced that the Government did not propose to interfere with wools that had already passed the hammer in the primary markets "save in case of urgent military necessity." The question of the export of wool to the United States was also raised, and the chairman stated that several classes of noils and wastes had been licensed from Great Britain to the United States, as it had been proved that there were stocks here that could be spared.

The likelihood of the export of black-face wool to the United States has also been mentioned in Bradford, stocks in Glasgow being said to be greatly in excess of present demand.

Labor Matters.

The threatened strike of the Bradford woolsorters has been averted, the employees having accepted the terms proposed by the British Association of Wool Buyers. The following agreement has been made, the woolsorters realizing the necessity of increasing the output to the fullest possible extent; they have also agreed, when necessary, to transfer their services from firms engaged on private trade to those on Government work:

1. That the employed agree to remove the restriction of output locally known as "stint," the employers agreeing that at no future date shall any reduction in the piece price paid per pack be made.
2. That during the winter months, from October 1 to April 30, the midday mealtime be no longer than 30 minutes' duration.
3. That during periods of depression in the wool-sorting industry the amount of work in hand shall be evenly distributed among the sorting staff by each firm.
4. That no female labor shall be recruited to the wool-sorting industry from any other branch of the textile industry.

The dyeing, bleaching, and finishing trade employees in Yorkshire are also agitating for an advance in wages in view of the continued increase in the cost of living. A conference is to be held on the subject.

A strike of the Bradford case makers recently threatened to embarrass the exporters of Bradford textiles, but the men were at once granted an advance of 5s. (\$1.22) per week and work was resumed.

RECENT SHIPBUILDING IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

[Commercial Agent W. B. Henderson, Seattle, Wash.]

The shipbuilding situation in the Pacific Northwest, including Puget Sound, Vancouver, Grays Harbor, and Portland, shows an increase in the number of vessels being built and those contracted for since September 30, when a report on the industry was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS**. The Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co. still heads the list with 7 steel ships being built and 4 others contracted for, in addition to the 3 United States submarines and 1 United States destroyer. Those being built range in dimensions from 368-48-27 to 396-53-29.

The firm of J. F. Duthie & Co. has 7 steel freighters, each with a cargo capacity of about 8,800 tons, and the dimensions over all are 423-54-29. These vessels are being built for foreign companies, as are also 7 of those of the Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co.

The Skinner & Eddy Corporation has constructed 2 vessels and has contracts for 9 others with a total capacity of 77,600 tons. These are all steel and of the standard sizes.

Has Contracts with Foreign Companies.

The Anderson Steamboat Co. has 2 vessels under contract for foreign companies, with a total capacity of 17,600 tons, and the Ames Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., one of the most recently organized shipbuilding companies, is establishing a large yard, and while it has not yet obtained any orders for ships, it is laying the foundations for a plant that will turn out 4 ships of the type of 8,800 tons capacity per year and will employ 2,000 persons.

In Portland, Oreg., the Willamette Iron & Steel Works and the Northwest Steel Co. combined are building 4 steel ships of the type of 8,800 tons and have contracts for 4 others of similar capacity, while the Columbia River Shipbuilding Corporation is building 6 steel vessels and 7 wooden vessels, with a total capacity of 52,800. The only other concern in the Pacific Northwest that is building steel vessels is the Albina Engine & Machine Works, at Portland, which has contracts for 4 vessels of a total tonnage capacity of 15,200.

In addition to the activity in steel shipbuilding, the various companies mentioned and other companies are at work on 58 wooden vessels. These range all the way from 170 to 290 feet in length, from 36 to 48 feet beam, and from 14 to 29 feet depth. All are for American concerns, and of the number shown by the 17 companies from which reports were received, 5 have been launched, 28 are building, and the remainder are under contract.

Important New Projects Under Way.

In addition to the activities mentioned, the Todd interests, in reality the Seattle Construction & Dry Dock Co., have purchased a large area in Tacoma and are to put up, in addition to their Seattle plant, dry-dock and shipbuilding facilities to the value of \$1,500,000. A new firm at Hoquiam, reported this week, and known as the Hoquiam Shipbuilding Co., the incorporators of which are planning on a capitalization of \$50,000, is expected to build a number of small schooners in one type of lumber carrier, with auxiliary

motors and a capacity of about 2,000,000 feet b. m. The site already has been obtained.

It is estimated that the shipbuilding industry of the Pacific Northwest, from Columbia River points to and including Vancouver, British Columbia, represents \$40,000,000.

NOVEMBER EXPORTS SET NEW RECORD.

Exports for November were the largest on record, exceeding those for September by \$3,000,000. The new record, as announced by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, is \$517,900,000. The total exports for the 11 months ended with November were \$4,961,200,000, against \$3,195,400,000 for the same period in 1915 and \$2,250,800,000 in 1913, which was the largest total for normal years.

November imports were valued at \$177,000,000, representing a slight decrease when compared with those for October (\$178,700,000) but exceeding by \$21,500,000 those for November, 1915, and by \$35,000,000, or 25 per cent, the November average from 1911 to 1915. The 11 months' imports were valued at \$2,186,800,000, as against \$1,606,800,000 in 1915 and \$1,674,600,000 in 1914, the former high-record year in imports. Of the November imports, 66 per cent entered free of duty, being about the same proportion as that for November, 1915.

The United States entered upon the last month of the year with a total foreign trade of \$7,148,000,000 for 11 months and with prospects that the year's trade will approximate \$7,800,000,000 in value. This estimate is based on actual results for November, just announced by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce.

The favorable trade balance for November was \$340,900,000, or about twice as much as for November, 1915, and four times as much as for November, 1914. The excess of exports over imports for the eleven months of 1916 was \$2,774,400,000, compared with \$1,588,600,000 in 1915, and \$193,400,000 in 1914.

The net inward gold movement totaled \$20,100,000 for the month and \$399,600,000 for the 11 months ending with November. Like periods of 1915 gave \$57,300,000 and \$387,000,000, respectively; while in 1914 there was a net outward gold movement of \$7,100,000 for the month and \$169,200,000 for the 11 months. Gold imports in November totaled \$46,500,000, the smallest with one exception during the last six months, and representing a drop from \$122,700,000 in June. Gold exports in November aggregated \$26,300,000, the largest figure shown by any earlier month of the year. The 11 months show gold imports of \$527,400,000 and gold exports to the value of \$127,800,000.

Conservation of Mineral Springs in Peru.

The President of Peru has issued a decree providing for the conservation and exploitation of all the mineral springs in the country under the direction of the Public Health Department. This department will disseminate information on the curative properties of the native mineral waters and will prevent the misuse of the springs, taking charge of the baths and depots where the waters are taken.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Nov. 25.]

Prophecies are heard in Holland of a distressful winter, not only here but throughout the world. The prophecies are based on various conditions, some existing, others in prospect. One of these is the shortage of this year's wheat crop, taking the world as a whole, which will inevitably result in high prices for flour and a scarcity of bread in countries which, like Holland, produce little wheat. Corn meal and bread might supply the deficiency to a large extent, but Europeans generally consider corn an animal food and must be educated to eat it themselves in any form.

The scarcity of coal is another condition, in Holland at least. The local mines produce some 2,000,000 tons a year, but that is barely a fifth of the normal quantity consumed in this country. England and Germany have been the foreign sources of supply, but because of the war importation is now so restricted and so uncertain as to produce a grave situation. Municipal authorities are urging the public to be economical with gas and electricity, street lighting is materially reduced, the railways announce that various train services will be discontinued and that cars will not be heated universally—all to save coal. Further, the Government has just issued a note to the burgomasters of the country urging the utmost economy in the use of fuel, restricted use of gas and electricity by and the earlier closing of hotels, coffee houses, and retail stores, and a higher price for all gas and electricity used above a prescribed minimum; with the intimation that communities which do not observe economy will suffer in the allotment of coal supplies. [Mention of the taking over by the Dutch Government of the distribution of all coal in Holland was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Feb. 5, 1916.]

Other conditions in Holland are a scarcity of building materials and of materials for machine works, shipyards, etc., and the great difficulty and even impossibility in some cases of obtaining more of such supplies, most of which must be imported and have hitherto come chiefly from countries now at war. It is feared that the result may be to stop all construction work and to close some large factories, thus throwing many people out of employment during the coming winter, when the opportunities for other work are the least.

Cost of Living—War Profits—American Opportunity.

The rise in the cost of living now far exceeds the average increase in wages. According to recently published statistics, the price of 29 of the most important articles of consumption in Holland had risen 50 per cent at the end of September, 1916, in comparison with the year 1913; in comparison with 1915, the increase was 20 per cent. Though perhaps a little exaggerated, these figures approximate the fact.

Apparently the great war profits made in various lines of business in Holland have reached their climax and are now waning. They resulted chiefly from the opportunity to sell at very high prices stocks of goods in Holland which had relatively small value before the war, and to sell at almost any price which might be asked certain goods imported from the Dutch colonies or from neutral countries. Some Dutch factories have also reaped great profit from the high

prices received for their products. Now those old stocks are exhausted, imports are practically restricted to Holland's necessities, and many factories suffer from inadequate supplies of raw materials.

In view of the difficulty or virtual impossibility of importing coal, raw materials, and various necessities of life from present belligerent countries which formerly gave Holland ample supplies, it is obvious that a great opportunity is offered to the United States, but the lack of sufficient shipping facilities may be a bar to utilizing this opportunity. If that could be removed, the present field in Holland for American products is almost limitless.

BRAZIL'S CATTLE EXPOSITION AND CONGRESS.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 17.]

The Brazilian International Cattle Exposition is to be held in May, 1917, and in developing the project emphasis will be placed not only upon the fact that the cattle industry is important to Brazil's economic future, but also upon the view that the Brazilian herd may be improved and made to furnish types suitable for the export packing business by the introduction of foreign sires. American cattle raisers will find an opportunity to show clearly to the market here what types of American live stock would be suitable for Brazilians to import for the betterment of the native stock. Swine and sheep should receive attention as well as bovine stock.

Some Fine Specimens of Native Stock.

That the Brazilian native stock already possesses some excellent types has been proven by the shipments of Brazilian meat that have gone abroad. It may be judged by anyone who visits Brazilian cattle fazendas and sees there the handsome types of caracu, curraleiro, and corteleiro. They are from ancient Portuguese cattle, more degenerated in some parts of the country than in others, but furnishing some fine specimens, admirably adapted to the climate and pasture.

The projected cattle exposition, like all such enterprises in Brazil, will be under the direct charge of the Permanent Commission of Expositions, whose secretary general, Dr. Conde Candido Mendes de Almeida, may be addressed at the Museu Commercial do Rio de Janeiro, Praça 15 de Novembro.

The idea of the exposition owes its birth to the Sociedade Nacional da Agricultura, an association which has advanced the interests not only of agriculture and cattle raising but also of industries related to the resources of forest, field, and stream.

Cattle Raisers to Present Views.

The National Society, at the same time that it is working for a cattle exposition, is making preparations for a cattle congress to be held at the same time, at which lectures and debates and the interchange of opinions between cattle raisers from all parts of Brazil will be a feature. American stock-farm owners, pasture-seed dealers, and manufacturers of ranch and stock-farm equipment would find it profitable to give special attention to this congress.

[Articles on the Brazilian cattle industry were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 10, July 27, and Oct. 13, 1916.]

BRAZIL A FIELD FOR INCREASED HARDWARE SALES.

The declaration that there is no apparent reason why European hardware manufacturers should dominate the market in Brazil is made in a report which has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The representative of the Bureau who studied the conditions in that country, former Commercial Attaché Lincoln Hutchinson, urges manufacturers in the United States to make an intensive study of the hardware trade in Brazil, such as the Germans have made, and expresses the opinion that no more favorable time than the present to make such a study will ever be found. Trade gained now may be retained when the war is over if proper precautions are taken. Mr. Hutchison has devoted many pages to the details that must be mastered if new business is to be retained. Much stress is laid upon tact and courtesy and upon a knowledge of the language.

Tariffs are very high, but they handicap the European manufacturer as well as the American. Portuguese is an unusual accomplishment in the United States; but if salesmen of the other countries see profit in mastering it, Americans should find it equally worth while. There is no prejudice against American goods; in fact, everything else being equal, it is more than likely that a preference would be shown goods manufactured in the United States.

Brazilian Imports During Normal Years.

The average imports of hardware into Brazil during the normal years 1910, 1911, and 1912 were valued at \$8,360,000 a year, and of this total, \$6,864,000, or 82 per cent, came from Europe. Half the exports from Europe came from three countries which are not now in a position to continue their shipments in any considerable quantity. Brazilian statistics are classified in such a way as to make it impossible to determine the exact imports of hardware, but these figures are held to furnish an approximate idea of the trade. A large share of the business has been in the hands of Germany. In 8 of the 16 classes of imports in which hardware is found that country has supplied a larger share than any other, and in five of these classes it has sold more than all of its competitors combined. In three others it has been little behind the leader. England has held first place only in manufactures of zinc, plated goods, staples, nails, screws, and rivets, tools and utensils, manufactures of nickel, and gymnastic and sporting goods. The United States has led only in manufactures of lead, and in scales.

Mistakes Made by American Shippers.

Several mistakes made by American shippers are described. The attaché himself once imported an order of biscuits from the United States. The invoice stated "crackers," since the exporter never thought of the possibility of having the biscuits taken for fireworks. But the result was that all the biscuits were unloaded at the depot for inflammables and considerable time and money were expended before they reached their final destination.

The new report is the fifth of a series issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce on the hardware markets of the world. Accompanying it are 774 samples of this class of goods

such as have been successfully sold in the South American country. After being exhibited in the principal hardware centers these will eventually be added to the permanent collection of samples at the customhouse in New York. Part of the report is given over to a description of the trade in each hardware line and has been made as practical and specific as possible. In all there are 89 pages. The exact title is "Brazilian markets for American hardware," Miscellaneous Series No. 47, and copies may be obtained for the nominal sum of 15 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany....	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela..	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guyana....	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Val- ley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Fenobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether- lands.	do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon..	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

PRODUCTION OF LUMBER IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

New Brunswick's lumber production for the calendar year 1915, according to a report made by the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Department of the Interior and forwarded from Moncton by Consul E. Verne Richardson, amounted to 633,518,000 feet board measure, compared with 414,808,000 in 1914. These figures were obtained from 240 active mills.

In the production of spruce, balsam fir, white pine, and many of the minor classes of lumber in New Brunswick, the returns show a considerable increase in 1915 over 1914. In the quantity of hemlock sawn there was a notable decrease. In 1914 it formed 6.3 per cent of the whole cut of the Province, while in 1915 it composed only 2.4 per cent. The total value of the 1915 production is given as \$9,902,202.

OCEAN RATES AFFECT MARKETS FOR AMERICAN PIANOS.**SOUTH AFRICA.**

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, Oct. 7.]

Pianos have a good market in the Cape Town consular district at present. It is believed that this will continue while present economic conditions prevail, and any substantial change is hardly to be expected here. The effect of the war on sales of pianos is said to have been remarkable, in that most of the Cape Town dealers are selling more instruments than usual. It is impossible, however, to state the extent of the increase, as each firm is of the opinion that it would be unwise to furnish such information on account of existing competition.

High Quality a Feature of American Product.

American pianos compare very favorably with other makes on this market, especially those imported from England. The quality of the product from the United States is said to be far in advance of that coming from England, and if the freight and transport difficulties were not so great this country would become a still better customer for American instruments. It has been suggested by a member of a local firm that, even when normal conditions are restored, there is no apparent reason why the American piano should not be especially favored.

Some American manufacturers, while making a piano of moderate price containing good material and good workmanship, fail to produce a properly finished article. One local merchant informed this office that the last piano he received from the United States had to be sandpapered and polished where the finish was bad, but that in justice to the makers he desired to add that the tone was wonderful for the price.

It is impossible to state whether there have been extensive cancellations of American orders since the outbreak of the war on account of increased ocean rates, but it is believed that in individual cases there has been a severe loss of orders of this kind. Moreover, it is known that merchants are buying very sparingly from the United States and confining their orders to other countries on account of the difference in freight rates.

Charges from New York to Cape Town Prohibitive.

On a piano costing the equivalent of \$99.64 in London the total amount of charges landed in Cape Town brings the cost up to \$167.48. An instrument recently purchased through an American commission house from a firm in Massachusetts for only \$81, when landed in Cape Town cost \$197.54. The charges from America alone amounted to \$85, which was more than the original cost of the piano. It is therefore apparent that the percentage on the original cost, for the American piano, was much greater than for the English piano. Although the English piano cost more in England, the American piano was of better value. Even with the better value in its favor, the American make can not again be purchased because of the prohibitive charges from New York to Cape Town.

A well-known South African firm stated that before the war it paid from the United States an average of 75 per cent on the Ameri-

can cost, but that the last shipment from that country averaged 210 per cent on home cost. The difference was due almost entirely to freight.

No Shipments Until Situation Improves.

When asked to express an opinion regarding the trade in American pianos, a firm maintaining branch houses in all the important centers of South Africa stated that the freight rates from the United States had become so excessive that a telegram had been sent holding up all future shipments until the situation improved. In the past this firm imported several makes of American pianos, and it still holds exclusive agencies for certain American factories, but now all such importation has been stopped.

The freight on pianos from America is \$41 per cubic ton, and an American piano, packed, requires 2 tons space, so that the importer is immediately faced with an expense of \$82 per piano for freight alone. The pre-war rate is stated to have been approximately \$12 per cubic ton.

Until recently, there was a very noticeable difference between the rates on pianos and organs from Canada and those from the United States, and representatives of Canadian organ manufacturers were able to guarantee delivery of instruments at rates from Canadian ports 20 per cent below those from American ports. The charges are now said to be nearly equal, but the previous advantage enjoyed by Canada caused a setback for American musical instruments.

Should Follow German and English Styles.

It is generally admitted that the beauty of finish and quality of tone of the best American pianos are equal to any. It is suggested that if the American manufacturers would cater more to the tastes of the South African buyers, and follow more closely the styles of the German and English makes, a much larger share of this trade could be obtained.

The percentage of the white population of this district owning pianos is large. Almost every farmhouse has one, while the boarding house or hotel without one is a rarity. In nearly all of these places upright instruments of the standard German or English makes are to be seen. The style preferred is the upright with the front ornamented by divided paneling, each panel generally being molded, while the center one possibly has marquetry or inlaid work. Divided lifts are required. The general height in this district is about 4 feet 5 inches. Very few grand pianos are sold. A finish of natural walnut in the upright pianos is preferred. In most cases the pianos are supplied with brackets for candles or lamps.

Purchasers Largely Persons of Moderate Means.

The trade is largely with persons of moderate means who have come to consider a piano an indispensable part of the furniture of a home; hence, the lowest price consistent with reliability is the controlling factor.

The packing cases are usually of the same shape as the pianos, well made of 1-inch boards and lined with metal.

Nearly all the pianos imported by merchants are bought outright, the manufacturers receiving cash from the importer's agent, who

generally accepts a draft at 90 days in settlement. The dealers here sell for cash, short credit, or on the installment plan, as desired by the customer. When sold on the installment plan the monthly payments usually run through 2 or 3 years.

No wood not thoroughly seasoned, or any other material likely to shrink, should be used in pianos intended to be sent to South Africa, on account of the very dry atmosphere.

Pianos are classified under No. 193 of the South African import tariff and pay an import duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, with a rebate of 3 per cent ad valorem granted on all such goods manufactured in the United Kingdom or in reciprocating British colonies.

Should Learn Requirements of Country.

The following extract is from a letter written by the manager of one of the largest houses dealing in musical instruments in South Africa, showing the favorable market for manufacturers in the United States:

I personally would guarantee, if American firms care to follow my advice, to establish an excellent and satisfactory market for American pianos, organs, and other musical instruments, but the manufacturers have yet much to learn as to the requirements of this great country with its variations of temperature and climatic conditions. The writer contemplates a visit to America with the intention of interviewing prominent American piano and organ manufacturers.

The import statistics of the Union of South Africa do not separately specify pianos, but combine the imports of all musical instruments under one heading. The values of imports of musical instruments for 1913, 1914, and 1915 were: \$873,299 in 1913; \$555,297 in 1914; \$322,031 in 1915.

[A list of dealers in pianos and other musical instruments in Cape Town and the name of the writer of the letter mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 81945.]

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Oct. 10.]

Some Criticisms of Instruments by Importer.

The present retail prices in Port Elizabeth for medium-grade pianos range from \$250 to \$350. This is due entirely to increased freight rates and inability to procure pianos from continental Europe. The size now in greatest demand is about 50 inches high, 54 inches wide, and 24 or 25 inches deep.

Some American pianos recently have been landed here, and the importer states that they are quite satisfactory, but slightly inferior to the British or German product in the matter of finish. The polished surfaces are not quite so good where carved or turned work borders the inside panels. There was also some criticism of the ivory section of the keys. The cut portion surrounding the black keys is inclined to be a little rough, and in some instances the ivory is so thin that the cement in which it is set is perceptible through the surface.

The tone and action of these American pianos that have just been imported is fully equal to any similar grade of British or German instruments received here. A waterproof covering is provided with each piano and is a most useful adjunct in the moist climate of the coastal sections.

CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Oct. 12.]

New and Substantial Trade in the Far East.

For the first time in the history of the trade of the Far East in musical instruments, American pianos are coming into various ports here in good volume, and with prospects of increasing and permanent trade. In Hongkong one of the most prominent music houses, which has branches in most of the principal ports of China, has introduced with distinct success an American make of pianos especially constructed for the Tropics, and orders for the instruments are being repeated in increasing size. This piano is made to retail at \$250 gold. It is small compared with standard American sizes, but is equipped with all the latest appliances, has a good tone, sewed and riveted felts (i. e., no glue used in its construction), a solid wood case, improved pin sockets—in short, it is an up-to-date instrument at a comparatively low price.

Should Be Suited to Climate of Hongkong.

The successful introduction of this piano has been due primarily to the war. The principal German and English manufacturers have made instruments especially suited to the climate of Hongkong and the Tropics generally. Those from the United States as a rule have been too large and heavy for the demand here on account of transportation conditions in the interior. At the various coast ports, the criticism was offered that they were in veneer cases and otherwise were not constructed for the climate. The result has been that what few American pianos were bought here gave constant trouble with warping woodwork, loosened felts, corroded strings, loosened keys, and many other similar troubles. The one line of American pianos that has been successfully introduced has an especially solid case constructed so as to resist dampness. Its mechanism also, while of the most modern sort, is of materials and workmanship to resist dampness and heat.

American organs and various other American instruments are in common use in the East. The successful addition of various makes of American pianos will add greatly to American prestige in musical lines as well as to actual trade. While the introduction of American instruments has been due in the first place to the difficulty of getting such articles from Europe during the war, the views regarding the comparative merits of the various instruments held by piano dealers here seems to indicate the probability of permanent and increasing trade.

ENGLAND.

[Consul Walter C. Hamm, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nov. 6.]

War Increases English Demand for Musical Instruments.

Several inquiries regarding the market in the neighborhood of Newcastle-on-Tyne for pianos and musical instruments have been answered this year with the statement that there was little or no demand for such goods on account of the war. These answers related, however, to the higher-priced instruments, such luxuries having been cut off on account of the high taxes. It is found, however, that the

market for cheaper musical instruments has enlarged. A dealer states:

The general opinion among instrument sellers seems to be that in spite of the rise in price, which has been nearly 25 per cent over antebellum figures, the demand is increasing. This is on account of higher wages, and the fact that notwithstanding the increased cost of living many families have a larger balance than formerly, and a percentage of this goes into musical instrument purchases.

The duty on pianos is 33½ per cent.

With one month's credit the discount is 5 per cent; on six months' credit 2½ per cent.

Dealers' Views of Conditions in Market.

Four dealers in musical instruments make the following statements regarding the conditions in this market:

No. 1. A good demand for pianos costing from \$100 to \$200 and melodeons at about \$5. No special packing instructions. Formerly received musical instruments from the Continent, carriage paid into Tyne.

No. 2. Formerly received pianos and organs from Japan and America. Thinks there is a good demand for melodeons, accordions, and mouth organs. Italian melodeons, retail price \$12 after paying duty, 10 keys, steel reeds.

No. 3. Moderate demand for pianos, but at a low price would sell. Demand for melodeons and mouth organs.

No. 4. Says a low-priced piano would sell well; also melodeons, accordions, mouth organs, and gramophones.

[Several of the dealers mentioned desire American catalogues and lists of prices. Their names may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82105.]

BRITISH INTERESTED IN NEW CHINESE NEWSPAPER.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Nov. 17.]

Announcement has just been made of the expected issue next week of the first number of a new Chinese vernacular newspaper, the Hsin Shun Pao. It will be published by the Hsin Shun Pao (Ltd.), incorporated under Hongkong Companies' Ordinances, and will be the only Chinese paper under British registry. All of the stock of the company has been taken by British and Chinese capitalists.

According to the North China Daily News, the primary object of the new publication is to further British interests in China and to present to the Chinese reading public British views in general, although it will be in no sense a British organ.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Bulkhead, No. 3905.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Customhouse, New Orleans, La., until January 16, 1917, for constructing bulkhead at Southwest Pass, Mississippi River. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Construction work, No. 3906.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill., until January 3, 1917, for the preparation of site, construction of railroad thereto, and for the erection of nine concrete hollow-tile storehouses for nitrate of soda, and nine concrete hollow-tile storehouses for mobile artillery ammunition. Specifications, with plans, form of proposal, etc., may be had on application to the commanding officer, Rock Island Arsenal.

Chain, No. 3907.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until January 12, 1917, for furnishing six 15-fathom and six 30-fathom pieces of 1½-inch light-vessel chain. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Folding organs, No. 3908.—Sealed proposals will be received at the general depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 115-123 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Ill., until January 18, 1917, for furnishing 70 folding organs. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Corridor cases, No. 3909.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., until December 29, 1916, for furnishing, delivering, and installing corridor cases in the new Chemistry Building of the Bureau of Standards. Further information may be had on application to the superintendent, mechanical plant, Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

Veterinary supplies, No. 3910.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., until December 23, 1916, for furnishing and delivering at warehouse "D," transport dock, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal., powdered areca nut, cosmo-line, and hypodermic needles. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Motor generator sets, No. 3911.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 2, 1917, for furnishing two 300-kilowatt motor generator sets and switchboard at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va. Specifications may be had on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

Gates, No. 3912.—Sealed proposals will be received by the United States Reclamation Service, Denver, Colo., until January 10, 1917, for furnishing butterfly and cylinder gates for Flathead project, Montana. Further information may be had on application to the Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C., or Denver, Colo.

Construction work, No. 3913.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill., until January 10, 1917, for the erection of one concrete hollow-tile storehouse for artillery vehicles, and the construction of 350 feet of standard railway thereto. Specifications, with plans, form of proposal, etc., may be had on application to the commanding officer, Rock Island Arsenal.

Electric lighting system, No. 3914.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 22, 1917, for an electric lighting and power system for the structural shop at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Washington, D. C., or to the commandant of the navy yard named.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Automobile accessories.....	23330	Machinery, lace making.....	23338
Canned goods.....	23332	Machinery, milling.....	23337
Confectionery.....	23332	Machinery, pin.....	23338
Dried fruits.....	23332	Machines, automatic measuring.....	23333
Dry goods.....	23334	Novelties.....	23334
Groceries.....	23332	Paper and stationery, etc.....	23331
Hardware.....	23332	Waterproof fabric.....	23336
Hosiery.....	23334	Wrenches, plumbing.....	23335
Lard.....	23332	Yarns.....	23338
Machinery, braid making.....	23338		

23330.*—A man in Spain is desirous of representing American manufacturers and exporters of automobile accessories. Correspondence in Spanish. Reference.

23331.†—A firm in Italy would like to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of white and colored tissue paper. Samples of the quality of paper desired may be examined at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to Misc. Exhibit No. 173). The firm would also like to receive samples, with prices f. o. b. New York, of copy books, notebooks, writing paper, wall paper, etc. Reference.

23332.*—A firm of commission agents in Venezuela wishes to represent American exporters of groceries, wheat flour, rice, lard, confectionery, canned goods, dried fruits, and hardware. Correspondence may be in English.

23333.‡—A company in the United States writes that its branch office in England desires to import automatic measuring machines, with a capacity from three-fourths to 2 ounces.

23334.†—A commission agent in France wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of dry goods, novelties, and hosiery for women and children. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23335.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for plumbing wrenches, an illustration of which may be seen at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 82504.) Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23336.*—A company in China wishes to purchase large quantities of a heavy woven, waterproof fabric, suitable for jin-riki-sha tops and curtains. A sample of the quality of goods desired may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 82511.) At present these goods are imported in rolls from 100 to 150 yards in length and 55 inches in width, at approximately 60 cents per yard. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made by sight draft against bill of lading. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23337.*—A business man in Spain is in the market for milling machinery and accessories. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Barcelona. Payment will be made within 30 days after arrival of merchandise in Spanish port. Correspondence in Spanish or French. Reference.

23338.†—A man in Canada wishes to communicate with manufacturers of machinery for making safety pins, hairpins, and braids and laces of all kinds. The machinery is to be shipped to South America. Copper and other kinds of wire for the manufacture of pins and yarns of all kinds are also desired.

1916 PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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INCREASED AMERICAN TRADE WITH MADRAS.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Nov. 3.]

The total seaborne trade of the Madras Presidency with foreign countries and with ports in other Presidencies of India during the six months ended September 30, 1916, amounted to \$66,300,498, of which \$22,254,489 represents the value of imports and \$44,046,009 exports. The imports from the United States during this period were valued at \$1,984,285 and exports to the United States \$4,151,709, according to the official customhouse returns. In the corresponding period during 1915 the value of the total seaborne trade with all countries was \$56,162,107, of which \$19,173,899 were imports and \$36,988,208 exports, the share of the United States being \$924,982 and \$2,082,821, respectively. In the prewar year, 1913, the total seaborne trade of the Madras Presidency with foreign countries and with ports in other Presidencies in India in the six months April-September amounted to \$63,077,369, of which \$26,346,277 were imports and \$36,731,092 exports. The value of the imports from and exports to the United States during the period was, respectively, \$803,355 and \$952,725. Imports from America in April-September, 1916, were therefore more than twice as large as during a similar period three years ago and American purchases of South Indian produce increased nearly fivefold.

CHINESE FLOUR MILLING CURTAILS IMPORTS.

[John R. Arnold, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Oct. 24.]

Operations were begun recently in Shanghai by a new flour mill, built entirely with Chinese capital, the machinery for which was purchased in the United States. It is known as a "thousand-barrel mill," but has been able to turn out about 1,400 barrels a day of a quality not equal to American flour. The total investment in machinery is 175,000 taels, or about \$130,000.

The flour-milling industry in China has expanded considerably in recent years, and, assisted by war-time freights, has already affected the import trade. The market for machinery in connection with this industry is likely to be important.

RECENT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RUSSIA.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 30.]

The British vice consul at Moscow has furnished the following notes on recent industrial developments in Russia:

The Chemical Industry.

The war has compelled Russia to develop its own chemical industry, and a certain number of works have already been erected, while many are projected. A superphosphate factory has been erected on the railway between the stations Molovilich-Levshino, by the zemstvo of Perm and Vyatka. The capital invested in this undertaking is 1,000,000 rubles (\$515,000 at the normal exchange rate). A celluloid factory has been erected at Kalino on the Perm Railway. The Nizhegorodski zemstvo has built a formalin factory at Vetluga. A technical laboratory for the production of lanolin, naphthalene, etc., has been built in Rostov.

A large company has been formed in Moscow, with a capital of 4,000,000 rubles (\$2,060,000), for the erection of a coke-benzol factory. In Tomsk a large chemical factory is projected for the production of medicaments. A factory producing tanning materials in Kief is now being administered by the zemski soyuz (union of zemstvos), and the output of tanning materials has been largely increased. Another tanning-material factory is projected at Maikop in the Caucasus.

Prior to the war, the production of fertilizers in Russia was largely dependent on raw material supplied by Germany. A great shortage of machinery for the use of artificial manure factories is felt, and this hinders the more rapid development of the industry. The manufacture of sulphuric acid appears to be progressing fairly well, several new works having been erected in the Volga region, in the Donets basin, in the Caucasus, and in the Urals.

The supply of Russian pyrites is increasing, but other raw materials used by sulphuric-acid works are in short supply. New saltpeter deposits have been discovered in the Altai districts (Siberia) and are being studied with a view to their exploitation. New deposits of pyrites have been discovered near the railway station Kinel in the Boguruslan district, and near Samara there are said to be deposits of sulphur.

The Glass Industry.

In 1915 the glass industry was called upon to produce goods that were formerly imported, such as mirrors, lenses and other supplies for optical instruments, and thermometer tubing. The production of thermometers in Russia is a new industry, these being formerly imported from Germany. Fair progress was also made in the manufacture of insulating glasses for electrical purposes. Some difficulties were experienced in making optical glasses, but it is hoped that these will gradually be overcome.

The prices of optical and other instruments in Russia have gone up 100 per cent. There is a great demand for microscopes, scientific apparatus, field glasses, etc. Russian industry in these products is undeveloped, as there are no specialists or experienced hands available. Hospitals placed large orders with glass works for the production of articles for medical and surgical use.

Prospect of Developing Cold-Storage Industry.

The establishment of refrigerating plants had already attracted the attention of the Russian Government and communal organizations in past years, but little has been done in this direction. In 1914 the Duma assigned 15,000,000 rubles (\$7,725,000) for refrigerating arrangements on the Andishan-Petrograd Railway to Tula, but so far nothing has been done in the matter. It has, however, been decided to erect slaughterhouses and refrigerating plants in the town of Uralsk, at a total cost of 15,000,000 rubles. There is no doubt that cold-storage plants have a great future in Russia, and there should be an excellent demand after the war for refrigerating machinery.

Outlook for Peat and Peat-pressing Machinery.

The peat industry in the central industrial districts of Russia (the Governments of Moscow, Vladimir, Nizhni Novgorod, Ryazan, Kostroma, and Tambof) began to develop in 1906, when a crisis arose in the oil industry. Not only manufacturers but also the Government have been greatly interested in its development in recent years. The output of peat in the districts mentioned increased from 62,400,000 poods (1,126,700 short tons) in 1909 to 81,700,000 poods (1,475,200 tons) in 1913. The output of peat is greatly dependent on the price of oil. During 1913, for example, when the consumption of oil decreased somewhat, larger amounts of peat and coal were used in its stead.

There should be a good opening in the future for peat-pressing machinery. The Council of Ministers has assigned 1,700,000 rubles (\$876,000) for the purchase of peat presses, and a trial order for 70 presses has been placed with works in Moscow. The Ministry of Agriculture has applied for a credit of 3,000,000 rubles (\$1,545,000) for the development of the peat industry.

SIAM'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR SIX MONTHS.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

Siam's purchases of foreign merchandise during the first six months of 1916 were valued at \$14,256,683, an increase of \$378,628 as compared with the corresponding period of 1915; and the country's sales of native products to other countries for the same months amounted to \$21,473,198 against \$19,741,379 for 1915, a gain of \$1,731,819.

The imports for the first six months of the current year consisted of \$12,915,109 worth of general merchandise, \$343,659 worth of alcoholic liquors, \$615,827 worth of opium, and \$382,088 worth of treasure and gold leaf; and in the exports were included rice to the value of \$17,904,639; teakwood, \$1,142,278; and other goods, \$2,426,281. Of the rice export, 65,910 short tons were shipped to Europe, including Port Said (for orders) and Alexandria; 356,890 tons to Straits Settlements, British Malay States, and Netherlands India; 215,892 tons to Hongkong, China, and Japan; and \$12,656 tons to all other countries.

The teakwood shipments from the port of Bangkok were distributed as follows: 4,614 metric tons to Europe, including Port Said (for orders), 14,895 tons to India and Colombo, 6,409 tons to Hongkong, China, and Japan, and 1,412 tons to other countries.

GROWING ACTIVITIES OF CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY.

[Translation from the Harbinsky Vestnik, forwarded by Consul C. K. Moser, Harbin, Nov. 9.]

The activity of the Chinese Eastern Railway for 1915 was exceptional, equally in relation to the transportation and the financial results. The total amount of freight carried, both fast and slow, for private shippers was 117,528,520 poods (pood=36.1128 pounds), an advance of 44,391,603 poods over 1914. The carrying of grain also showed an increase of 20,651,000 poods compared with 1914. The net profit, according to the exploitation department's estimate, was 22,780,932 rubles (\$11,732,180). In its brief report the commercial department notes that those signs of decline in commercial activity which were seen at the beginning of the war have passed away. The great demand for imported goods for the army and for the industries of interior Russia helped to increase the activity of the railway. According to the statistical information furnished, the freight consignments of private shippers, imported through Vladivostok and transhipped to Russia in transit on the Russo-Chinese communications, and also those shipped from the stations of the Chinese Eastern Railway to the Russian railways amounted to 20,917,000 poods in 1915, an increase over 1914 of 16,429,000 poods.

Large Increase in Shipments of Beans.

The principal articles exported to Russia were tea, cotton, metals, druggists' supplies, sacks, and machinery. The increase in grain transportation refers principally to the carrying of exports. The exports of grains, etc., chiefly beans, to Japan and England during 1915 amounted to 20,704,000 poods, an increase of 11,270,000 poods, or 58 per cent, over 1914.

During 1915 northern Manchuria, as a market for Russian products, temporarily lost its importance. The imports of goods into northern Manchuria over the Russo-Chinese overland and marine route from Russia amounted to 1,832,000 poods, 13 per cent less than in the normal year 1913. The imports of goods from the South Manchuria Railway amounted to 14,699,000 poods, an increase of 33 per cent over 1913 and of 27 per cent over 1914.

The turnover for the last three years, including the cost of carrying goods for the needs of the road, in rubles of \$0.515, was: In 1915, 40,056,138; in 1914, 23,959,457; in 1913, 22,732,059.

The turnover of 1915 represents an increase over 1913 of 43.24 per cent and over 1914 of 40.18 per cent. The expenses for the support of the road for the last three years, including the cost of carrying freight, were: In 1915, 17,275,205 rubles; in 1914, 16,063,019 rubles; in 1913, 15,700,130 rubles. The net profits of the road for the three years were: In 1915, 22,780,932 rubles; in 1914, 7,896,437 rubles; in 1913, 7,031,928 rubles.

Number of Passengers Carried.

The carrying of passengers of all four classes amounted to 1,724,853 persons in 1915, 1,716,576 in 1914, and 1,616,520 in 1913.

The carrying of baggage and packages, according to the baggage receipts, increased decidedly. The amounts were: In 1915, 355,306 poods; in 1914, 303,540 poods; in 1913, 285,485 poods.

Freights of passenger speed and single articles per pood rate, shipped from Station Manchuria west and arriving at Station Manchuria from the west, amounted to 67,991 poods in 1915, 35,207 poods in 1914, and 36,554 poods in 1913. Freights of fast speed showed a decided decrease against 1914 and still more against 1913. The amounts were: In 1915, 252,682 poods; in 1914, 810,861 poods; in 1913, 2,149,239 poods. This decrease is explained by the fact that the Amur Railway diverted fish goods, which formerly were transmitted along the Chinese Eastern Railway, to Russia.

[A review of the marine interests of the Chinese Eastern Railway was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 19, 1916.]

SIAM'S PURCHASES OF RUBBER GOODS.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

Siam's imports of rubber goods for the last three fiscal years ended March 31, 1916, have shown the following variation: 159,115 pounds valued at \$119,507 for 1914; 143,506 pounds valued at \$103,702 for 1915; and 157,931 pounds valued at \$127,507 for 1916. The imports for 1916 included 58,565 pounds of motor-car tires, valued at \$51,978; 13,380 pounds of cycle tires, valued at \$14,551; 41,323 pounds of other kinds of tires, valued at \$16,795; and 44,630 pounds of all other rubber goods manufactures values at \$44,183.

The sources of the rubber goods imports for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, were: From the United Kingdom, motor-car tires, \$39,902; cycle tires, \$4,941; other kinds of tires, \$12,771; and all other rubber manufactures, \$11,155; from United States, motor-car tires, \$872; cycle tires, \$3; all other kinds of tires, \$134; and all other rubber manufactures, \$1,002; from Italy, cycle tires, \$395; from Japan, tires, \$17; and all other rubber manufactures, \$2,584; from Singapore, motor-car tires, \$39,902; cycle tires, \$9,011; all other kinds of tires, \$3,873; and all other rubber manufactures, \$27,791; from all other countries, \$1,651 worth of all other rubber manufactures.

Taking the totals of all rubber goods imported during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, it will be noted that \$80,591 worth is credited to Singapore, a British port of transshipment; \$40,226 worth to the United Kingdom; \$2,011 to the United States; and \$4,448 worth to all other countries.

Market for Rubber Tires.

The roads in Bangkok are favorable to the use of rubber-tired vehicles, and the use of the automobile and cycle is steadily increasing. The total number of motor cars on the register up to April 1 of this year was 875. Rubber tires are used for horse-drawn vehicles as well as for the rickshaws drawn by the Chinese coolies.

During past years American manufacturers of rubber goods did not display any active interest in Siam's needs for such goods, but this year an American firm has established an agency for its motor-car and other tires, and United States traveling salesmen have taken fair orders for other kinds of rubber manufactures.

The import duty on all kinds of rubber goods is 3 per cent ad valorem.

BRAZILIAN METHOD OF GATHERING MEDICINAL PLANTS.

[Consul Charles L. Hoover, Sao Paulo, Nov. 18.]

Few of the medicinal plants shipped from Sao Paulo and vicinity are cultivated. Most of them grow wild in the tropical forests. They are not very systematically gathered, and for that reason it is impossible to predict in advance what the production will be, but the supply is unfailing and the collecting of the materials is carried on each year by the same people, principally Indians, so that the quantity put on the market varies but little from year to year.

The business may be likened to that of farm produce in the United States. When there is any extra demand the call extends down the entire line of brokers and commission merchants until it finally reaches the producer, who may be induced to market a larger amount of a certain article which otherwise he would use himself or allow it to go to waste. The gathering of medicinal plants may be stimulated by increased demand in New York, London, Paris, or elsewhere. The importers in these places call upon the exporting houses in Sao Paulo, which pass the call up into the interior through the small trader to the Indian, who will bestir himself to meet the demand for plants in the same way that the American farmer meets an increased demand for butter and eggs.

Plants Sought by Dealers in United States.

Of the plants concerning which inquiries have been received, *cassia fistula*, known as cannistula here, is exported from Bahia and is sold there at 2 milreis (milreis=\$0.25) per kilo (2.046 pounds); quassia, from Bahia, Pernambuco, and Para, 1½ milreis; copaiba oil, from Para and Manaos, 2½ to 3 milreis; ipecac, from Matto Grosso, 15 milreis; matico, from Bahia, Ceara, and Maranhao, 2 milreis; sarsaparilla, from Para and Manaos, price not given; Tonka beans, from Para and Manaos, price not given; cacao beans, Bahia, 800 reis (\$0.20) to 1 milreis; manaca, from Pernambuco and Bahia, 1 milreis; pilocarpus, from Ceara, 2 milreis; carnauba wax, from Pernambuco, price not given; brazilwood, from Sao Paulo, 1 milreis; vanilla, from Para, Bahia, and Manaos, price not given.

The following, whose pharmacopœia names are not known, are listed as coming from Sao Paulo; Sucapira, tayuya, caroba, agriao, carapia, japecanga, tipo cravo, cipo cruz, herva bugce, jumbaba, and davilla rugosa. These names may be known to the drug trade.

INCREASED PRICE OF BEER IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Nov. 15.]

Beer may be considered almost as much the national beverage of Holland as of Germany, and therefore a sudden and material increase of price is naturally an important event. The local brewers' prices recently ranged from 8 florins (\$3.22) to 17 florins (\$6.83) per hectoliter (26.42 gallons), according to quality. This price has now been advanced 25 per cent for the superior qualities and nearly 40 per cent for the inferior kind.

Necessarily this advance will cause smaller glasses or higher prices in the retail trade. The price of a glass of beer has been from 2 to 8 American cents, depending upon quality and whether domestic or imported.

The cause of the advance in prices is the great increase in the cost of materials for brewing beer.

INCREASED FRENCH AMUSEMENT TAX.

[Vice Consul Davis B. Levis, St. Etienne, Nov. 21.]

A new increase in the tax for theatrical and other performances in St. Etienne and the rest of France brings to notice the difference between the charges imposed on French amusement enterprises and those levied on similar American projects. The normal tax of 5 per cent of the gross receipts of each exhibition was raised after the outbreak of the war to 15 per cent, and has again been augmented 5 per cent, making the present tax 20 per cent. This rate is applicable to all public spectacles. Some establishments will recover this larger outlay by increasing their admission prices. The amount paid into the treasury here from January 1 to October 1, 1916, has averaged 2,120 francs (over \$400) a week, an important revenue for a provincial town. Many theaters and motion-picture houses add to their receipts by operating the refreshment bars that are a usual adjunct, and the charge for programs and an extra fee for tickets sold in advance of the performance are other sources of profit.

A form of expense to theaters unknown in the United States is that of the Government tax on publicity in the way of printed matter displayed or posted. This is paid by affixing stamps to the amount of 24 centimes (4.6 cents) for each sheet of paper, the usual size of which is 32 by 47 inches, although a larger size of poster paper (40 by 51 inches) is used for some display advertising. The tax for fractional sheets is in proportion and is based on the printed space and border.

A recent additional regulation affecting theaters and amusements of all classes is the required closing of such places for one night of each week as part of the movement for conserving coal and illuminants by economy of light.

TAMPICO OIL REPORT FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Dec. 11.]

Declared exports of crude oil and petroleum products from the Tampico district to the United States in October amounted to 2,155,891 barrels and in November to 2,087,155 barrels. The movement from Tampico was 1,573,080 barrels in October and 1,581,150 barrels in November; from Tuxpam, 582,811 barrels and 506,005 barrels, respectively.

Shipments to points other than the United States in October were reported as 196,745 barrels from Tampico and 494,104 from Tuxpam; in November, 308,854 barrels from Tampico and 628,808 from Tuxpam. The total exports, therefore, reached 2,846,738 barrels in October and 3,024,817 barrels in November.

Tampico shipments included refined products as follows:

Products.	October.	November.
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
Distillate.....	68,000	81,000
Reduced crude.....	224,310	409,730
Fuel oil.....	79,841	230,116
Kerosene.....		28,500

As heretofore, Tuxpam shipments include only crude oil, the topping plants at that port not being ready for operation.

HOUSE FLAGS AND FUNNEL MARKS REGISTERED.

The United States Bureau of Navigation announces the registration, pursuant to section 7 of the act of May 28, 1908, of the following-described house flags and funnel marks:

Standard Oil Co., 26 Broadway, New York, N. Y.: House flag—a rectangular flag divided into two triangular fields by a line extending from the upper corner of the hoist to the corner diagonally opposite; the upper triangle blue and the lower triangle red; superimposed on the flag at its center the letter S on a white O; the middle part of that portion of the letter O which is not covered by the letter S cut away to allow the fields to show through; funnel marks—the funnel is black with a white band equal in width to the diameter of the funnel, having its top one diameter from the top of the funnel.

Ore Steamship Corporation, 111 Broadway, New York, N. Y.: House flag—a rectangular blue flag with a horizontal white stripe at top and bottom; in the center of the blue field the letter O in white; funnel marks—a slate-colored funnel with the house flag superimposed thereon at a distance from the top equal to the width of the flag.

A. F. Thane & Co., of San Francisco, Cal.: House flag—a white, swallow-tailed burgee with red stripe of uniform width around the entire outer margin; this stripe extended from the apex of the swallowtail in an unbroken line to each of the sides and from these points to the center of the hoist, forming a diamond; in the center of the diamond the letter "T" in red.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Albert, Talbot J.....	Hanover, Germany...	Dec. 25	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guayra, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	Do.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Do.
Chamberlin, George E.....	Georgetown, Guiana...	Dec. 23	C/o E. L. Chamberlin, Woodstock Valley, Conn.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gaimon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Dec. 30	129 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 27	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	do.....	"Islington," Walkersford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Watson, John J. C.....	St. Pierre, Miquelon...	Dec. 25	2236 Q Street, Washington, D. C.
Willrich, Gebhard.....	Quebec, Quebec.....	do.....	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

MEASURES TAKEN FOR PROVISIONING SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Nov. 14.]

The Spanish Government has just enacted a law whereby it is hoped the many problems arising from the scarcity and high price of provisions will be solved.

By the law of February 18, 1915, the Spanish Government was authorized to take certain measures in connection with the provisioning of the country with alimentary substances of first necessity and of raw materials, both in the interests of the national food supply and of manufacture and agriculture. These measures were temporary and in view of the continuation of the war the law, limited to 12 months, was extended for another year—that is, until February 19, 1917. The circumstances under which the law was drawn still exist and show no signs of change; in fact, the difficulties of provisioning the country have increased and the Government finds that in order to properly meet the situation its powers must be extended.

The new law embodies the provisions of the law of February 18, 1915, and authorizes in addition the acquisition by the Treasury of alimentary substances and raw materials and their sale at regulated prices. Furthermore, if conditions warrant, the Government may seize and appropriate the articles mentioned and fix their price as well as that of their transportation by land and water. Cereals and fuel may be distributed throughout the Kingdom in whatever manner considered best, and when the interests of the country demand contracts may be suspended.

Seizure of Mines, Vessels, and Primary Materials.

Mines, gas works, and all fuel-producing establishments may be seized if other means fail to bring about normal quotations for their products. The Government may adopt whatever measures are considered advisable with regard to Spanish vessels, even including their seizure with the object of restoring them to the domestic service, regulate freights, and suspend the law which reserves the coastwise trade of Spain to vessels of Spanish construction under the Spanish flag. The owners of the mines or vessels seized will be indemnified.

Alimentary substances and primary materials may be seized and stores and warehouses partially occupied, but business will not be interrupted in the unoccupied portions of the premises. Owners will be indemnified for the merchandise as well as for any damage done.

A board, consisting of the civil governor of the Province, the president of the court, a delegate from the Treasury, and the mayor of the capital of the Province, in accord with the town council of the interested municipalities, shall decide on the necessity of seizure and appropriation of provisions and the occupation of any premises. The price of merchandise and amount of indemnification shall be fixed by the governor of the Province, the chambers of commerce or of agriculture, and whatever other authorities the civil governor may desire to consult.

Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, contemplates installing a water-borne sewage scheme when the moment is opportune.

SHANGHAI BUTTER AND CHEESE MARKET.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, Oct. 20.]

The opportunity for increasing the use of American butter and cheese at Shanghai, and throughout China, is exceptionally good at present. Butter is not used by the Chinese except by a comparatively small although rapidly growing number of the wealthier and better classes. The normal consumption of butter in China is estimated at approximately 2,000,000 pounds per annum, the value placed on the imports for 1914 being \$489,060 and for 1915 \$310,236. Of this, about 40 per cent was received at Shanghai.

Prior to the European war the principal sources of supply were Siberia, Australia, and New Zealand, and various countries of Europe, the supply obtained from America and other sources being practically negligible. Siberia furnished about 40 per cent of the supply and Australia and New Zealand about 30 per cent. Great Britain leads the countries of Europe as a source of supply.

Siberian Butter and Exchange Rates.

Siberian butter was packed in tubs, from which it was sold at retail, although sometimes formed into 1-pound bricks by the dealers. It was a good butter, although not reliably so, as it was not packed under Government supervision, and some unscrupulous shippers made a practice of placing inferior butter in the middle of a tub with layers of good butter at top and bottom. Nevertheless, there was a good demand for it on account of its low price, 55 to 60 Mexican cents per pound, equivalent at the exchange rate then prevailing to 22 and 24 cents, United States currency.

At the present rate of exchange the Mexican prices above mentioned would be equal to about 28 and 31 cents gold. Normally a gold dollar is equal to 2½ Mexican dollars, whereas to-day it is worth a trifle less than 2 Mexican dollars. In considering any prices mentioned herein, this matter of exchange must not be overlooked. It requires careful attention in all transactions with China. Many importing firms have been ruined through failure to protect themselves against exchange fluctuations. Of course, such fluctuations affect all gold standard countries to practically the same extent, so that the matter could be disregarded in considering such questions, for instance, as the ability of California to compete with Australia in the matter of the supply of butter. But it must be understood that owing to exchange principally and to local market conditions, one would not always be able to get the same returns for butter valued at 30 cents f. o. b. San Francisco.

Opportunity for American Butter.

The exportation of dairy products from Russia is now prohibited, and no Siberian butter can be had in China markets. The cutting off of this source of supply has not resulted in creating so large a demand for the American product as might be expected. It is only recently that American butter producers became more active.

There could be no better time than the present to establish a permanent demand for American butter in this market. The principal dealer in Siberian butter has an agent now in San Francisco and has received his first shipment, which he is disposing of rapidly at retail at 90 and 95 cents Mexican per pound and cooking butter at 75 cents. The 95-cent kind is imported in bricks with carton covers. The 90-

cent butter is the same brand, brought over in bulk and bricked by himself. Several Chinese houses catering to foreigners have imported small lots through their Chinese friends, which they sell at one dollar (Mexican) per pound, and one strictly American firm is making regular imports of California tinned butter which is being sold by retailers at \$1.15 and \$1.20 (Mexican) a pound; but there has been no organized effort to push the business. This particular subject will be referred to again.

Australian Butter.

As to Australian butter, three years ago the largest café in Shanghai, catering to foreign trade, imported butter direct from Australia, packed in fifty-four 1-pound cubes to a case, at 70 cents (Mexican) a pound. This was equivalent at the rate of exchange then prevailing to about 29 cents gold. Now the café gets the same kind and has to purchase it through a large British importer, at \$1 (Mexican) a pound, equivalent to 52 cents gold. The same butter is sold in retail stores at \$1.15 and \$1.20 (Mexican) per pound. It is sold under an established brand, and it is stated that recently it has not given satisfaction; that, in fact, although sold under the same brand, it is really a composite butter bricked in Shanghai. However, a good price is obtained for it and the supply is not equal to the demand.

The rise in the price of Australian butter is due to the fact that the Government has restricted its exportation and to the scarcity of steamers and higher freight rates. It is therefore evident that at present America can successfully compete with Australia for the China market; whether it can do so after the restoration of peace is another matter.

European Tinned Butter.

All of the butter imported from Europe is in tins, and there are all grades and prices. There is a good deal of prejudice here against tinned butter, and so long as good, fresh butter is obtainable, tinned butter can not take its place. There is a demand for tinned butter, however, for shipments to interior markets, and there is no reason why America should not secure a large share of that business, and the time is opportune for establishing a foothold.

Shanghai Dairies Increasing Local Butter Supply.

There is an increasing number of local dairies in Shanghai, some of them conducted in a sanitary way, and they produce an excellent quality of butter which, being freshly made each day, meets with a ready sale at about 50 cents a pound. But their output is not sufficiently extensive to warrant their consideration as a factor in the supply of butter for China. These dairies also make butter from the milk of the carabao or water buffalo, for which they also get approximately 50 cents a pound. But the carabao is more useful as a beast of burden. As a milk producer this animal is not a success, furnishing but 6 quarts a day, whereas the ordinary cow of the Chinese dairies contributes 15 quarts, and consumes only half as much as a carabao.

Review of Butter Market Conditions.

On account of the inferior quality of the butter as compared with the fine creamery butter of California or of Australia or New Zealand, the supply from Siberia, when it shall again enter the market, need not be seriously considered. It is not bad butter, and on account

of its cheapness there will always be a demand for it; but there is a growing demand also for the best, and it is believed American butter can supply this demand even in competition with the excellent Australian butter already well known in China. Local butter and European tinned butters may also be disregarded.

There remains the butter from Australia and New Zealand, and the following facts have to be faced. First, Australian butter is already well established in the markets of China. Second, it is excellent butter. In this connection it may be stated, however, that the Russian butter man previously mentioned, when asked if he were now bringing in Australian butter, said, "No, I get California butter—it is better." Third, cold-storage rates from Australia are even now only about 1½ cents a pound, whereas the rate from the United States is almost prohibitive, and, besides, cold-storage space is difficult to obtain. Fourth, the principal importer of Australian butter has a cold-storage plant in Shanghai, whereas no such plant is available for American firms. Whether under all these unfavorable circumstances Americans could establish a permanent market in China and maintain it under normal peace conditions is the question to be decided.

If Americans can produce better butter and sell the same in Shanghai at a trifle above the price of Australian butter, or can sell butter of equal quality at the same price, they can then do a large share of the business.

Local Representation and Conditions.

In any event, American producers or exporters would need a reliable agent here, one in close touch with the trade and in a position to advertise and push the sale of the products. This would facilitate shipments and the financing of the business as well as eliminate the possibility of making sales to unreliable dealers. The agent could also furnish information concerning the condition of the local market, exchange, etc.

Because of the prohibitive cost, as well as the scarcity of cold-storage transportation facilities, it would probably be advisable to ship American butter in bulk, packed in brine. It is understood that shipments have been satisfactorily made in that manner, although accompanied by a certain amount of risk, and is not suited for the shipment of this staple during the months of June, July, and August. During the other months of the year it should be reasonably satisfactory if a representative of the shipper is on hand to superintend the packing aboard ship and to make certain that none of the butter is stowed away in the vicinity of the boilers or hot pipes.

Shanghai Cold-Storage Possibilities.

During at least five months of the year it would be necessary, on account of the heat, to keep butter in cold storage. This is one of the difficulties that would have to be overcome before any extensive plans for butter shipment could be made, for the cold-storage accommodations at present available in Shanghai are quite limited. It might be possible to arrange limited accommodations with two local Shanghai firms which, although not engaged in the cold-storage business, could probably make temporary provision for a limited amount of produce. However, there are American firms in Shanghai which could doubtless be interested in a movement to establish a cold-storage plant that would accommodate perishable American

products as well as a large amount of native produce. Without such a plant it would be difficult to carry on a continuous business in American butter, for the deterioration of the product during the summer months would doubtless largely destroy the demand that might be created during the winter months of December, January, February, and March, in which months the business could probably be carried on without the aid of cold storage. A cold-storage plant is much needed in Shanghai to accommodate local produce, and should, it would seem, prove a lucrative investment of itself, aside from its serviceability in connection with the shipment of butter.

Sales on a Commission Basis.

It seems quite possible that local agents could readily be secured to handle American butter on a consignment commission basis, an arrangement that might be advisable as preliminary to the establishment of a business in the product here. Shipments of various brands or grades of butter could be made to agents here who would sell them at the highest market prices and submit an account sales with the proceeds after deducting expenses and commission. Under present conditions, which, it seems likely, will obtain for some time to come, American butter will bring a good price, and, as cold-storage facilities may be dispensed with until, say, April next, the time seems opportune for some American butter dealer to start an export trade with Shanghai, using some reliable local agent at the outset and arranging through that agent for cold-storage accommodations with one or both of the two firms so equipped at present for necessary use when the warm weather commences.

As stated before, excellent Australian butter was delivered here three years ago at the equivalent of 29 cents (gold) per pound. It seems quite unlikely, however, that it will reach that low level again for many years to come. In figuring on the cost of butter delivered in Shanghai, there should be added to the f. o. b. San Francisco price about 2 cents per pound, which cover the cost of insurance and freight—about 1 cent per pound—and the duty of 1 cent per pound. The duty is figured at two Haikwan (customs) taels per picul of 133½ pounds, which is equivalent at the present rate of exchange to nearly 1½ cents, or at normal exchange rates to about 0.9 cent (gold) per pound.

Demand for American Cream Cheese.

There should be an excellent market in Shanghai for American cheese as well as butter. One retailer here is doing a good business with it at about 30 cents (gold) a pound. It must, however, be carefully handled and would, doubtless, be disposed of with less difficulty if cold-storage facilities were available for its accommodation. It is said that it does not stand well, but grows bitter and coagulates. These reports, however, need verification. It would have to compete with Holland cheese, which comes on the market packed in tin foil and sells at 40 cents (gold) a pound. There are also many kinds of tinned cheeses in the market, packed in quarter and half-pound tins, which come from Australia, Switzerland, Holland, England, and other European countries.

[A list of wholesale dealers and retailers who may be interested in the butter and cheese trade can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82521.]

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Aeroplanes and hydroplanes	23339	Nails	23347
Aluminum sheet holders	23340	Oils	23343, 23346
Candy	23347	Paints	23343
Cement	23343	Paper	23340, 23343
Chemicals	23346	Rosin	23343
Codfish	23347	Salmon, canned	23347
Corn products	23343	Seeds	23343
Drugs	23346	Shoes	23344
Foodstuffs	23343, 23347	Shoemakers' supplies	23343
Hosiery	23344	Soap	23344, 23345
Iron, galvanized	23347	Sockets, electric lamp	23341
Iron, hoop	23342	Tractors	23343
Leather	23343	Turpentine	23343
Machinery, road-making	23343	Wire, barbed	23347
Milk, condensed	23343		

23339.*—A man in Spain desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of aeroplanes and hydroplanes. Correspondence may be in English.

23340.†—A firm in Canada wishes to communicate with American manufacturers of aluminum loose sheet holders. It desires prices of holders for sheets 6½ inches by 11½ inches. The firm also desires to purchase low-priced bond paper.

23341.*—A company in Switzerland is in the market for from 5,000 to 10,000 key lamp sockets having a removable porcelain ring as insulator instead of the usual brass ring with insulated mat. The purchaser will take the brass sockets without the porcelain ring insulators if impossible to supply the latter. A sample of the socket desired may be examined at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to file No. 82529.) Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23342.*—A man in Spain desires to purchase hoop iron for barrels. Width from 20 to 70 millimeters, thickness in tenths of a millimeter. The purchaser would buy a ton immediately, and if satisfactory would purchase in 15 or 20 ton lots. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid against shipping documents. Correspondence in Spanish or French.

23343.‡—Supplementing foreign trade opportunity No. 23309, a firm in Brazil, with a branch office in New York, informs the Bureau that it desires to represent American manufacturers of road-making machinery, tractors, cement, rosin, paints, oils, turpentine, shoemakers' supplies, kid leather, corn products, foodstuffs, seeds, condensed milk, and paper. References.

23344.‡—A man in Greece wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of toilet soap, hosiery, and shoes. Correspondence in French.

23345.†—A firm in Switzerland desires to purchase laundry soap. It also wishes an agency for this commodity. Correspondence in German.

23346.†—A Swedish merchant wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals, drugs, and oils. Samples and analysis are desired. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23347.‡—A commission agent in Porto Rico is desirous of representing American manufacturers of galvanized iron, barbed wire, nails, cheap candies, dry salt codfish, canned salmon, and rice. References.

Full Payment for Chilean Railway Employees.

The Chilean Government has authorized the Executive Board of the State Railways to return to railway employees the amounts deducted from their salaries during the stringency in the year 1915. In addition to the sum appropriated to cover the discounts in salaries last year, the law, as published in the Diario Oficial of November 2, appropriates an equal amount to form a retirement fund for wage workers.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3915.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving the schedule numbers, for furnishing the following: Schedule 541, bleached cotton drill, bleached and unbleached cotton drill, and shrinking bleached cotton drill; schedule 542, 30-inch center lathe; schedules 543 and 544, steel forgings; schedule 545, printing, washing, and drying machine; schedule 546, wood thimbles, woodworkers' 16-inch lathe, 26-inch saw bands, and 12-inch saw table; schedule 547, water-tight annunciators, ammeters, voltmeters, etc., turbo generating sets, and electrical supplies; schedule 548, oil-burning marine furnace, motor-driven-pressure blower, 16-inch high-speed drill, 30-inch radical drill, two-wheel emery grinder on column, 14-inch and 16-inch engine lathes, 14-inch by 56-inch patternmakers' lathe, screw-cutting lathe, milling machine, 4-inch diameter hack saw, 30-inch wheels band saw, and column shaper; schedule 549, lathes to swing 12 inches overhead; schedule 550, 26-inch turret lathes; schedule 551, furnishing and installing exhaust system; schedule 552, crucibles; schedule 553, calcium phosphide, air-pressure gauges, tool spring, socket wrenches, balances, soft sheet brass, and copper tubing; schedule 554, motor and controller ventilating sets; schedule 555, baskets for use with dish-washing machine, galvanized-iron hammock rings, hull and soft steel rivets, and steel cap screws; schedule 556, copper pipe, steel pipe and tubing, and brass tubes; schedule 557, tinned flour, and salt pork; schedule 558, blue-printing machine; schedule 559, steel shapes, bars, plates, and sheets; and schedule 560, wire desk baskets, rubber bands, loose-leaf binders, hand blotters, blank books, cardboard filing boxes, typewriter brushes, paper clips, tracing cloth, duplicators, rubber erasers, steel erasers, paper fasteners, bill clip, letter files, copyholders, loose-leaf holders, drawing, duplicating fountain pen, numbering machine, printing, stamp pad, and writing ink, self-closing square glass-top and safety inkstands, drawing instruments, thumb-tack lifters, paper-fastening machines, gum mullage, typewriter oil, felt back desk pads, memorandum and stamp pads, adding machine, blotting, carbon, legal cap, cross section, drawing, mimeograph, printing, tissue, tracing, typewriter, and wrapping paper, wax, oil board, stencil paper, mucilage paste, lead, colored, drawing, general, stenographic, etc., pencils, ruling and writing pens, penholders, style "A" perforators, push, glass head, and pyramid pins, pencil-point protectors, eyelet punches and paper-fastening eyelets, penracks, spring stamp racks, waste-paper receptacles, typewriter ribbons, hard rubber and maple rulers, architects' drawing scales, mail and express scales, pencil sharpeners, bankers' shears, mimeograph perforating silk, 9-inch by 13-inch common slates, dating stamps, thumb tacks, cloth and manila shipping tags with eyelets and strings, red (72-yard spools) linen tape, cotton sale twine, varnish, mimeograph, pads, pencils, pins, etc., and metal paper weights.

Signal Corps supplies, No. 3916.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D. C., until January 20, 1917, for furnishing wall telephones, desk telephones, wing bolts, metal wall stuffing boxes, iron cases, receiver cases, hook switch catches, cast-iron doors, gongs for ringers, handles and catch for doors, condenser straps, spanner wrenches, etc. For specifications and further information apply to the above-named office, referring to Circular No. 895.

Steel derrick mast, No. 3917.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Detroit, Mich., until January 15, 1917, for constructing a steel derrick mast for the lighthouse tender *Marigold*. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Redecorating steel towers, No. 3918.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 22, 1917, for scraping, cleaning, and painting two 300-foot steel towers at the naval radio station, San Juan, Porto Rico. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, to the Commandant, Navy Yard, New York, N. Y., or to the Naval Radio Station, San Juan, Porto Rico.

POTTERY TRAINING FOR WOMEN.

[Consul Robert S. S. Bergh, Stoke-on-Trent, England, Dec. 6.]

In the Educational Supplement of the London Times for November 16 a correspondent discusses pottery training for women, especially the course of instruction offered by the London County Council School of Arts and Crafts at Camberwell. He states that at this school women are taught every process from "throwing," through mold making, grooving and carving, and firing, to the use of "slip" glaze and to graffito work upon it, and finally pass to the important study of underglaze and overglaze painting. In firing, a small oven with removable firebrick front, easily cemented in with clay on each occasion, is the type recommended for the small worker. In this oven the heating is done by gas and regulated by automatic indicators.

At the present moment two women from Australia are studying at the school under particularly interesting circumstances. Their intention had been to learn toy making in England, in order to establish an industry for disabled soldiers in their own country. Their discovery of the possibilities of pottery, however, made it seem worth their while to stay in England for the two years required for training in this handicraft. Clay is known to exist at Bendigo, in the State of Victoria; it doubtless will be found elsewhere; and Australia seems likely to owe its first locally made ware to the initiative of women.

JAPANESE LINE TO SOUTH AMERICA INAUGURATED.

[Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Nov. 23.]

It is reported that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has decided to inaugurate a steamship line to South America, beginning in December, 1916, and that four cargo ships, each about 8,500 tons displacement, will be used. The *Kasato Maru* (8,000 tons displacement) was selected as the first ship to be dispatched.

Vessels of this new service will start from Yokohama and call at the following ports, on both the outgoing and returning voyages: Kobe, Moji, Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, Durban, Cape Town, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires.

The freight rate from Yokohama is to be 50 yen (about \$25) per ton to South Africa and 70 yen (about \$35) to the final port. These rates are much lower than the charges on other lines. The ships of the new line may later carry passengers as well as freight.

[Reference to the possibility that the line mentioned in this dispatch might be established was made in **COMMERCIAL REPORTS** for July 7, 1916.]

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JAN 6 1917

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No. 302 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, December 26 1916

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NEW ZEALAND MERCHANTS ESTABLISH DOLLAR CREDITS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 14.]

The chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of New Zealand has just returned from a four months' trip through the United States and Canada and announces that arrangements have been completed with American banks whereby dollar credits can be secured to facilitate trade between New Zealand and America. This will be in the interest of American trade, and now is the time for American manufacturers and exporters to make the most of it. There is a good field in New Zealand for most lines of manufactured articles, and the demand is sure to continue for some time after the European war closes.

INCREASED SUMATRA RUBBER SHIPMENTS.

[Consul R. S. Rairden, Batavia, Java, Oct. 21.]

Exports of plantation rubber from Belawan, Deli (Sumatra), for the first eight months of 1916 amounted to 10,947,704 pounds, compared with 8,300,817 pounds in the corresponding period of 1915. Shipments to the United States increased from 2,369,072 to 5,549,025 pounds. This indicated continued growth in the trade with the United States, which had previously leaped from 67,200 pounds in 1914 to 4,074,560 for the entire year 1915. The figures for eight months are:

Countries.	1915	1916
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
United States.....	2,369,072	5,549,025
Great Britain.....	4,517,429	3,803,088
Netherlands.....	948,153	31,592
Straits Settlements.....	466,158	1,503,999
Total.....	8,300,817	10,947,704

PRICES PAID FOR NEW ZEALAND 1916-17 WOOL CLIP.

[Vice Consul L. A. Bachelder, Auckland, Nov. 25.]

Amplifying the cable message of November 22, 1916 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 24, 1916], reporting purchase by the Imperial British Government of the entire New Zealand wool clip of the season, the prices agreed upon for the various classes of wool are as follows, per pound:

	Cents.
Superior Merino combings.....	37 -45
Medium to good Merino.....	30½-35½
Inferior Merino.....	26½-29½
Superior halfbred.....	37 -43½
Medium to good halfbred.....	30½-37
Inferior halfbred.....	28 -31
Superior crossbred.....	32½-37
Medium to good crossbred.....	28 -34
Inferior crossbred.....	24 -28
Lincoln and Leicester.....	27 -32½
Lambs', good.....	34 -40
Lambs', medium.....	28 -33½

Negotiations were completed with very little difficulty; for while prices may not be quite so good as might eventually have been obtained, the growers realized the circumstances governing the position and also took into consideration the fact that they would receive prompt spot cash in New Zealand for the clip upon delivery. The banks will suffer from this arrangement, as they will lose the exchange on all the drafts that would have been negotiated through them if all the wool had been sent forward in the ordinary way.

GUATEMALA IMPOSES TAX ON MACHINE-MADE CIGARETTES.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Dec. 5.]

Those cigarette manufacturers of Guatemala who use machinery in their factories are much concerned over the publication in *El Guatemalteco* (the official journal of the Guatemalan Government) under date of November 23, 1916, of a notice to the effect that a revenue tax of 1 centavo Guatemalan currency will be imposed on each package of machine-made cigarettes manufactured in the Republic.

Prior to 1899 a tax of 1 centavo was levied and collected upon each package of cigarettes made in the Republic. At that time all cigarettes were made by hand. In 1899 President Estrada Cabrera suspended the operation of the law. Since then factories have been established for making cigarettes by machinery, and there are now four such plants operating in the Republic.

In reviving this old law the decree of November 23 provides that the tax shall be collected only from those manufacturers who employ machinery, but, on the other hand, it stipulates that it shall be operative from the dates the factories began using such machinery. Local manufacturers are protesting against the new tax, and especially against its retroactive feature. There are three factories now operating in Guatemala City, with a combined capacity of 580,000 cigarettes per day, and one plant in Quezaltenango with a daily capacity of 60,000 cigarettes.

AMERICAN CATALOGUES NEEDED AT LYON FAIR.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, Nov. 22.]

Active preparations are being made for the sample fair at Lyon, to be held during the first two weeks of March, 1917. Already booths for the housing of exhibits are being built, and a determined effort is being made to have them ready early in January.

Profiting by the mistakes of last year, which were responsible for the delay in opening the fair, the authorities are determined to have everything ready at the earliest possible moment. The great quays that line the Rhone River are being transformed into a village of little shops.

Increase in Reservations Over Last Year.

The reservations thus far made for space are much larger than those of last year, and it is estimated that many additional booths will have to be erected. There was not a sufficient number last year, and the authorities took care of the overflow by turning over several of the large public buildings for the exhibits. This arrangement, while it answered the purpose, was somewhat inconvenient to buyers. Concentration is sought, and the authorities have seriously considered the erection of a large building to be devoted entirely to exhibition purposes. It is proposed to make this a permanent building, and plans are already being submitted. It was thought possible to start work on it during the present year, but the authorities have concluded that it would be wiser to wait until the termination of the war, although one of the wings may be built now.

A determined effort is being made to bring new buyers to the fair, which is not an exhibition for the public generally, but a collection of samples from all the neutral and allied countries upon which orders may be based. The time limit for reservations of booths is December 31, 1916.

Japanese Section to be Established.

Japan, alive to the commercial possibilities of this fair, is making a special effort. According to present arrangements a Japanese section is to be established.

Efforts to create an American section are expected to be successful. The fair committee already has indicated its full cooperation, and it is urged that there should be a sufficient number of American exhibits to guarantee a worthy section. American business men have responded to the call for catalogues, and many are being received at the American consulate at Lyon. They will be arranged for easy access in a branch consulate at the fair, and ample provision will be made for prospective buyers to examine them. Clerks speaking both French and English will be in attendance, and all translations and explanations will be made without charge. It should not be understood that the branch consulate will display manufactured goods of any kind. Its object is to provide a catalogue exhibit and to create interest in American goods. More catalogues are needed, however, to make the showing that is desired.

Lines of Goods for Which Catalogues Are Desired.

Catalogues of small hardware, house furnishings, labor-saving devices, tools, house fixings, stoves, and builders' hardware are

especially desired. In fact the catalogue exhibit should include every class of goods manufactured in the United States. It is of primary importance that where possible prices be given in francs and terms of sale clearly stated.

Before and during the fair an official catalogue with a guaranteed circulation of 20,000 is to be published. This will be distributed generally to patrons and will serve as a directory of exhibits. Each firm occupying a booth is entitled to three lines of free advertising. Additional lines will average about 5 francs (96 cents) each. A page of advertising 18 by 10 centimeters (7 by 3.93 inches) costs 175 francs (\$33.77). Space measuring 6 by 10 centimeters (2.36 by 3.93 inches) costs 70 francs (\$13.51). A discount of 10 per cent is made for a page.

Three publications relating to the Lyon fair of 1917 are to be issued—Catalogue of the Fair, the Bulletin Officiel de la Foire de Lyon, and during the fair only a daily newspaper entitled "Journal de la Foire." Advertising may be placed in any of these publications.

Latin-American Week an Important Feature.

The extensive propaganda that has been conducted under the auspices of the French Government for developing more closely the relations between France and the Latin American Republics has found expression in the designation of a week for the study of questions between Latin America and France. This movement was inaugurated some time ago by the parliamentary committee of action for foreign countries and received the approval of the French Government.

An extensive program has been outlined to include lectures by prominent Latin Americans. The Lyonnaise municipality, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of France, has completed all arrangements for the meeting. Conferences have been arranged, and the proceedings will be featured by speeches on subjects to include: "Three centuries of South American history," Latin America during the French Revolution," and "France seen from Latin America."

It is understood that commissions from Latin America will attend for the purpose of studying economic conditions, and it is pointed out that this meeting will become an annual affair, the next one to be held probably at Bordeaux.

[A statement regarding American applications for the Lyon Sample Fair was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 12, 1916. The American committee has established headquarters at 1790 Broadway, New York. A copy of the program for Latin-American week at the fair may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 83035.]

New Rates for Telegrams in Chile.

The Chilean Government has issued a new schedule of rates for telegrams from Tacna to Arica, and from Tacna and Arica to Corocoro, Viacha or La Paz, and to other cities in the interior of Bolivia. The rates as published in the Diario Oficial show that messages in code or in a foreign language are from one-half to one-third higher than telegrams in Spanish.

SIBERIAN MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

[Summary of article in Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Nov. 27.]

Western Siberia presents one of the richest fields for the sale of agricultural implements. In the plains of western Siberia and the foothills of the Altai are exceptionally fertile lands supporting 8,000,000 people, exclusive of the urban population, and capable of supporting the entire population of European Russia.

During the five years 1909 to 1913 the area of new lands opened up for settlement by emigrants from European Russia was 75,850 square miles and the number of settlers was 2,000,000. The completion of the new railway program and the consequent opening of new districts should result in future emigration on a still larger scale. The emigration to Siberia is regulated by a colonization bureau established in connection with the Department of Agriculture. Most of the settlers take up land on the communal basis; the title remains in the Crown, but the peasant obtains the use of the land free for the first five years, and thereafter in return for taxes. To each male member of the family is allotted 22 to 40 acres. Loans on liberal terms are made by the Government, which has also established depots for the sale on easy terms of agricultural implements, experimental stations for testing farm machinery, and institutes for agricultural instruction.

Other settlers, mostly of foreign origin and representing less than 20 per cent of the total, are not dependent on State assistance but take up freehold tracts of 67 to 135 acres per family. Much land along the railroad and the river banks is held by the original Cossack settlers, who are usually well-to-do. Small holdings are the rule in Siberia. No immediate market is to be expected, therefore, for the more expensive types of farm machinery. For other kinds of farm-operating equipment, however, the field presents unlimited opportunities. Siberian peasants are more intelligent and progressive, and also more prosperous than those who remain in European Russia, and their farms are larger and more productive.

Manufacture of Implements in Russia—Imports.

A large proportion of the less complicated machinery and implements sold in western Siberia is manufactured in Russia by establishments started by British and German enterprise. Most of the factories are located in South and Central Russia, in Kharkof, Elisavetgrad, Berdiansk, Odessa, Alexandrovsk, and Moscow. They produce plows, broadcast seeders, seed drills, harrows, cultivators, mowers, Russian hand-rake reapers, and small thrashing machines. For complicated agricultural machinery western Siberia depends chiefly on imports. A well-known American company has established works near Moscow but continues to import the more complicated machines and parts from the United States. Harvesting machinery is also shipped to western Siberia from Canada, and a good reputation has been gained for Canadian products. Power thrashing outfits have come mainly from Great Britain and Germany. Sweden has developed an extensive trade with western Siberia in dairy equipment and to a small extent in agricultural machines.

Methods of Distribution in Western Siberia.

The chief distributing center for western Siberia is Omsk, which is admirably situated at the point where the Transsiberian Railroad crosses the Irtysh River, and is surrounded by a rich farming district. The annual turnover of agricultural implements at Omsk in a good year is valued at 20,000,000 rubles (\$10,300,000 at the normal exchange rate). The only Russian city that surpasses Omsk in the volume of trade in these articles is Rostof-on-Don. Two other Siberian towns that are important distributing points for agricultural implements are Novonikolaievsk on the Ob River, the starting point of the Altai Railway, and Kurgan, the center of a fertile district, 320 miles west of Omsk. Some foreign and most Russian implement manufacturers have branches at Omsk. There are several independent wholesale houses that have branches in the most important centers and handle agencies of both Russian and foreign manufacturers. There are also numerous local agents and dealers in the principal towns.

Agricultural-implement Depots of Colonization Bureau.

An important part in the distribution of agricultural implements is taken by the depots of the Imperial Colonization Bureau. In 1909 there were 64 of these depots in Siberia; in 1913 there were 300, of which 220 were in western Siberia. The sales in 1913 amounted to 7,500,000 rubles (\$3,862,500), and the value of the implements imported into Siberia for the use of these depots amounted to 8,400,000 rubles (\$4,326,000), as compared with 4,600,000 rubles (\$2,369,000) in 1909 and 2,600,000 rubles (\$1,339,000) in 1906. The implements supplied must be of Russian manufacture, if possible, though exception is made of American harvesting machinery. In spite of the liberal credit terms of the depots their dealings are confined chiefly to the less prosperous peasants, and a large field remains open to outside competition.

Details of Implements Sold at Depots in Last Four Years.

The following statement giving the number of agricultural machines and implements sold at the depots of the Imperial Colonization Bureau in Siberia during 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915 indicates the character of the turnover at these depots and the nature of the trade of western Siberia in agricultural machinery:

Articles.	1912	1913	1914	1915
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Single plows.....	37,315	35,794	30,805	19,107
Double plows.....	1,563	4,198	3,534	3,906
Plows and seeders combined.....	1,021	1,934	1,128	1,144
Cultivators.....	249	497	438	315
Harrows.....	665	1,010	1,291	1,510
Broadcast seeders.....	247	264	354	229
Broadcast seeders and disk drills.....	965	473	453	946
Mowers.....	7,184	2,955	4,531	2,000
Hayrakes.....	6,427	2,953	3,579	2,366
Reaping attachments.....	1,876	1,206	1,513	1,226
Russian hand-rake reapers.....	4,732	3,023	3,776	1,929
Reapers, other.....	5,762	3,194	4,091	1,866
Binders.....	893	1,150	1,254	499
Thrashers, horsepower.....	1,426	1,234	1,139	212
Thrashers, homemade, hand-power.....	2,069	1,865	2,544	886
Winnowers and cleaners.....	7,090	6,205	6,581	4,669
Grain sorters.....	423	347	346	211
Millstones (sets).....	446	576	695	396
Carding machines.....	140	154	124	66

Articles.	1912	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Chaff cutters.....	846	374	444	180
Hay presses.....	5	15	89	4
Cream separators.....	289	343	434	258
Churns.....	154	173	184	135
Wagons.....	2,483	2,891	3,315	2,239
Pump fire engines.....	43	45	48	47
Weighing machines.....	501	454	525	192
Sickle and scythe grinders.....	2,087	1,801	2,023	978
Axes.....	6,225	7,213	7,495	6,050
Forks.....	3,123	3,271	4,202	2,628
Shovels.....	154	1,362	1,887	2,591
Scythes.....	4,175	3,939	4,916	4,844
Binder twine.....	• 16,289	• 18,254	• 31,435	• 49,879

• Pounds.

Sale of Equipment by Butter Exporters—Tendency to Cooperation.

The distribution of farm equipment, especially dairy appliances, is also participated in by the firms (chiefly Danish) exporting butter, who frequently supply such articles to cooperative creameries and to farmers. There are a great number of cooperative creameries in western Siberia run by peasant societies, 530 of which have formed a union to dispose of butter abroad independently of the exporters. The tendency toward cooperation is a natural result of the communal village system, and associations are formed among the newer settlers, to whom the Government grants loans on the joint responsibility of the group. Credit may be granted to these cooperative groups with comparative safety, because they possess the means of enforcing payment, when necessary, by tactful pressure through their members.

Credits—Present Depletion of Stocks.

Before the war the usual credit granted to purchasers of farm-operating equipment extended over two harvests; for heavy machinery the period was two to three years. The losses from nonpayment of debts have been negligible in comparison with the total turnover. The losses on this account over a term of years of a large firm distributing agricultural implements in western Siberia amounted to only one-half of 1 per cent. The Colonization Bureau, which has to do mostly with the poorer peasants, reports that 2½ per cent of the debts contracted between 1897 and 1907 remained unpaid at the end of 1913.

The period just before the war was characterized by keen competition and some recklessness in granting credits. The more readily accessible lands having been occupied it was found impossible to maintain immigration and develop the country's resources at the rate that had been anticipated. The weaker firms had their capital tied up and overhead expenses were increasing owing to the number of machines that they were unable to sell. Imports have now practically ceased, and the Russian factories for the most part have been busy in other directions. Stocks have been cleared off and a business has sprung up in overhauling and selling old machines.

Method of Obtaining Share of Big Sales Expected After War.

After the war all kinds of farm-operating equipment will be required in large quantities. Suitable representatives could doubtless be found for American firms. By establishing a branch for the territory, however, at some central point, preferably Omsk, the necessity

of sharing the profits with more than one dealer could be avoided. Swedish manufacturers are represented at Omsk by a firm specializing in Swedish implements and machines. Dealers have urged the necessity of manufacturers sending over sample machines in order to test their suitability for this market. For this purpose the experimental stations are available that are maintained by the Government at Omsk and Novonikolaievsk. The types and sizes of the agricultural implements and machines that have the largest sale in western Siberia are indicated in the following notes under the respective headings:

Single-furrow Walking Plows Most in Demand.

The number of plows sold in western Siberia exceeds 100,000 per year and the greater number are of Russian manufacture. The Russian plows are roughly but strongly finished and are both light in weight and cheap, the two qualities most essential in western Siberian trade. The western Siberian soil is clay covered with a layer of black earth 12 to 18 inches deep, which yields easily to the plow. The furrow is usually 3 to 5 inches deep. Fertilizers are not used; when one plat of land shows signs of exhaustion another is broken up. The plow with the single-curve share is considered most suitable. Nearly all the plows sold are fitted to a German forecarriage. The walking plow is used almost entirely; the Siberian horses are hardy but not very strong and the number owned by each peasant is limited. The weight of the one-share plows sold is 145 to 190 pounds. There is only a small demand for heavier plows. The single-furrow plow has by far the largest sale in western Siberia. The pre-war factory prices of Russian one-share plows ranged from 17 to 35 rubles (\$8.76 to \$18.03).

The only plow factory in Siberia, located at Omsk, manufactures about 20,000 one and two share plows annually. The pre-war factory prices of the two-share Russian plows varied from 40 to 60 rubles (\$20.60 to \$30.90).

Plows with Seeders—Three and Four Furrow Gang Plows.

Plows with seeders combined are in growing demand in western Siberia. The four-share size with a lever is the most popular, combined with a seeder that drops the seed into the open furrow, the next following share covering it. The pre-war retail price at Omsk of a well-known implement of this type was 89 rubles (\$45.84).

The use of three and four furrow gang plows in western Siberia is increasing, and the plow factory at Omsk is contemplating their manufacture. There is also a limited sale for the larger sizes of gang plows among the more well-to-do landowners. The gang plows manufactured for this market should embody the principal features of the single plows sold, such as light weight, and should also have more clearance than is usual with gang plows of the American type.

Prospect of Market for Plows.

The principal dealers at Omsk are of the opinion that owing to the competition of the Russian works there would seem to be little opportunity for doing business in the types of plows that have the largest sale in this market. It was thought possible, however, that a trade with Canada might be developed in the better class of plows

to replace those formerly supplied by Germany, and also in gang plows. A United States plow-manufacturing company has been endeavoring for some years to build up a business in this territory, and has established a branch at Omsk. It is reported that previous to the war this company sold about 500 plows a year. All dealers are agreed that if Canadian manufacturers desire a share of the trade with western Siberia they must manufacture plows in accordance with the requirements of the market. Personal investigation and energetic representation are also considered essential. The demand for plows in western Siberia will increase with the development of the country, and a firm becoming established in the market should in the course of a few years secure a trade that would be a valuable adjunct to its business as a whole.

Drills, Harrows, and Cultivators.

Disk drills have become popular in western Siberia. A large Anglo-Russian factory in South Russia sells in western Siberia in a normal year about 1,200 disk drills, which are fitted with 8 to 19 disks, and sell at a factory price of 180 rubles (\$92.70) for the 8-disk drill and 390 rubles (\$200.85) for the 19-disk drill. The disks are double, are fitted at intervals of 5 inches, and are adjustable. The 12-disk drill is said to be the most popular, and sold before the war for 260 rubles (\$133.90). Plain drill seeders with 7 to 19 drills also have a large sale. The Government depot at Omsk formerly sold an 11-drill seeder at 122 rubles (\$62.83). For plain drills the factory prices of the South Russian firm referred to were 127 to 295 rubles (\$65.41 to \$151.93). The greater proportion of the broadcast seeders sold are of Russian manufacture. Disk harrows are coming into favor. A suitable implement fitted with ten 16-inch disks retailed at Omsk before the war at 73 rubles (\$37.60). Spring-tooth harrows on wheels are also largely used, and range in price from 45 to 60 rubles (\$23.18 to \$30.90). Cultivators sell for about the same price. The 7-tooth cultivator is most in demand, but the tendency for the teeth to become clogged with earth is a defect that it is desired to remedy. Imports from the United States and Germany have supplemented the sales in western Siberia of drills, harrows, and cultivators of Russian manufacture.

Harvesting Machinery.

The trade with western Siberia in complicated agricultural machinery is largely dominated by the sales of the American company near Moscow, supplemented by imports from Canada and the United States and by the products of other manufacturers in Russia. A factory in South Russia is now turning out self-binders, in addition to mowers and reapers, but the Russian manufacturers devote their attention chiefly to the lobogreika, or hand-rake reaper. This machine is a very cheap reaper with a reel and requires an extra person, seated on the outer back corner of the platform, who does the raking off with a pitchfork. The pre-war retail price was 150 to 180 rubles (\$77.25 to \$92.70), or only 30 or 40 rubles (\$15.45 or \$20.60) less than the self-rake reaper. The lobogreika is popular because it can be used for either grain or grass. Large numbers of mowers and horse rakes are sold. A one-horse rake 8 feet wide with 30 working and 2 stationary prongs and a two-horse mower 4½ feet wide are

considered most suitable. The most popular self-rake reaper is 5 feet wide; the most popular binder, 6 feet. The use of the right-hand binder is practically universal. Complaint has been made that the forecarriage fitted to binders of the American type has a tendency to fall over to one side, and it is believed that this could be remedied by reconstructing the forecarriage upon some other principle. Before the war 60 to 70 rubles (\$30.90 to \$36.05) was considered a fair price for a horse rake, about 145 rubles (\$74.68) for a mower, 180 to 220 rubles (\$92.70 to \$113.30) for a self-rake reaper, and 330 to 380 rubles (\$169.95 to \$195.70) for a binder.

Thrashing Machines.

The thrashing machines used in western Siberia are operated on the English principle, there being no demand for thrashers of the American type. A great number of small thrashing machines designed for use with horse gears are sold and are nearly all of Russian manufacture. A satisfactory machine is made by an Anglo-Russian company with a factory in the south of Russia, which serves as a model for most of the other makes sold. The factory price of a very simple machine made by this firm for use with two horses is 244 rubles (\$125.66), horse gear included; the four-horse gear size sells for 498 rubles (\$256.47), the six-horse for 624 to 799 rubles (\$321.36 to \$411.49), and the eight-horse gear size for 912 to 1,400 rubles (\$469.68 to \$721). This company is reported to sell on the average about 3,000 of these machines in a year in western Siberia. The four-horse and eight-horse power sizes are the most in demand. The tendency is for a greater number of the larger sizes of thrashers to be sold each year.

Power thrashing outfits have been successfully imported into western Siberia from Great Britain and Germany in competition with the local make, about two-thirds of the trade being supplied by British firms. Ten-horsepower thrashing sets have the largest sale. The competition of Germany in portable engines prior to the war had become a serious factor. The prevalence of alkaline water in western Siberia, however, is against the steam-driven engine. The most available fuel for power purposes is either kerosene or crude oil, naphtha being difficult to obtain. There is therefore a growing demand for kerosene or crude-oil vertical motors of about the 14 to 16 horsepower size, sufficient for use with thrashers or small flour mills and for irrigation purposes.

Demand for Small Tractors.

There is an opening in western Siberia for a small tractor burning kerosene or crude oil. The few sets disposed of among the larger landowners have been principally of German or American manufacture. A kerosene tractor of 14 to 20 horsepower is required, which would be capable of pulling a three or four furrow gang plow and which could be delivered at Omsk for between 4,000 and 5,000 rubles (\$2,060 and \$2,575). The tractor should be relatively simple in construction and easy to operate. It was complained that the tractor which an American company has been trying to sell is too complicated for use on Siberian farms. The platform and control levers should be so arranged that only one operator will be required for both the tractor and the plows.

A firm at Omsk with connections throughout western Siberia expressed the desire of obtaining from Canada a tractor for demonstrating purposes fulfilling the foregoing requirements, in order to determine whether it would suit the conditions of the market. This firm has offered to pay the duty, freight, and other expenses from Canada to Omsk on one such tractor, provided the manufacturers would be willing to wait for payment until the tractor has been demonstrated and sold. It is anxious to secure the agency for an efficient tractor, since it proposes to push the sale of gang plows and requires a tractor to be worked in conjunction therewith.

Dairy Appliances.

The rapid rise of the dairying industry of western Siberia has caused a great demand for dairying appliances. Churns, butter presses, and other accessories are mostly of Russian manufacture, but cream separators have been supplied chiefly by Sweden and Germany. Attempts have been made to introduce American cream separators but Swedish competition has proved too strong. The separators sold range from the 5-vedro (16.2 gallons) size up. The make of 5-vedro separator having the largest sale retails for 60 rubles (\$30.90). Another make sells for 35 rubles (\$18.03). There is also a limited demand for power separators, the largest size sold being 180 vedros (585 gallons).

AMERICAN PURCHASES FROM DUTCH EAST INDIES.

The principal exports from the Dutch East Indies for the United States during the three months ended September 30, 1915 and 1916, follow:

Articles.	July- Sept., 1915.	July- Sept., 1916.	Articles.	July- Sept., 1915.	July- Sept., 1916.
Bamboo hats.....number..	126,240	129,020	Ore.....pounds..	22,765	.....
Cassia.....pounds..	343,324	349,419	Pepper:		
Chloralkali.....do..	11,432	.....	Black.....do..	1,621,066	4,661,751
Cinnamon.....do..	.....	16,600	White.....do..	.....	348,438
Gloves.....do..	67,428	.....	Potash.....do..	.....	37,025
Cocoa.....do..	115,005	102,960	Rattan.....do..	898,494	240,883
Cocoa.....do..	532,119	.....	Roots (smelling).....do..	.....	171
Coffee.....do..	2,582,990	26,772	Rosin.....do..	.....	2,900
Copra.....do..	11,393	5,056,124	Rubber.....do..	4,631,320	8,745,635
Damar.....do..	587,927	290,075	Shells (trocas).....do..	128,397	.....
Fat.....do..	.....	3,062	Skins:		
Fiber.....do..	5,794,744	2,774,135	Deer.....number..	23,725	25,640
Gambier.....do..	100,201	42,602	Goat.....do..	318,240	740,483
Grass (pandan) hats,number	312,480	14,944	Lizard.....do..	3,000	.....
Gum benzoin.....pounds..	19,494	13,009	Sheep.....do..	58,020	70,880
Gum copal.....do..	175,450	822,630	Sugar.....pounds..	18,563,756	.....
Gutta-percha.....do..	122,740	97,497	Tapioca:		
Hemp.....do..	168,117	.....	Flake.....do..	1,574,553	1,029,963
Hides (buffalo and cow), number.....	43,320	103,415	Flour.....do..	8,503,219	21,309,457
Java.....pounds..	451,107	427,296	Seeds.....do..	.....	55,080
Kapok.....do..	191,879	396,453	Siftings.....do..	22,389	.....
Mace.....do..	37,773	61,007	Tartrate.....do..	12,863	.....
Nutmegs.....do..	278,491	373,883	Tea.....do..	276,252	215,819
Oil:			Tin.....do..	135,930,278	235,242
Citronella or essential, pounds.....	61,631	52,517	Wax:		
Coconut.....liters..	7,200	1,172,920	Bees.....do..	.....	183
Fussil.....pounds..	.....	47,562	Paraffin.....do..	1,560,320	224,000
Kallipootti.....liters..	2,362	2,377	Wood:		
Kananga.....pounds..	.....	2,883	Ebony.....do..	.....	184,824
			Sandal.....do..	108,324	191,247

THE DENIA RAISIN CROP.

[Consul John R. Putnam, Valencia, Spain, Nov. 27.]

A conservative private estimate places the 1916-17 raisin crop in the Valencia consular district at 24,500,000 pounds; official statistics are not available. The first shipment of the season was made on August 30, for France; but it was not until the middle of September that any raisins were exported to the British Isles, which annually take the greater part of the crop. Up to November 24 shipments amounted to 23,198,000 pounds, as compared with 11,736,816 pounds for the corresponding period of last year and 12,450,144 pounds during the whole 1915-16 season.

Of the total quantity exported this season, 18,455,136 pounds were sent to British ports, as against 10,751,552 pounds marketed there during the whole of last season. The United States has taken 544,096 pounds, as compared with 60,256 pounds for the like period of 1915; France and Algiers have received 1,809,584 pounds, as against 110,432 pounds; Switzerland (which did not import any Denia raisins during 1915-16) has taken 608,944 pounds. Shipments amounting to 1,303,344 pounds have been made to Norway, and 380,352 pounds have been marketed in Canada.

Prices and Freights.

Denia raisins are usually packed in "quarter" boxes containing 14 pounds of fruit. Transactions and commercial quotations are always made in English hundredweight, equal to eight such boxes.

Exchange, which stood at 24.08 pesetas to the pound sterling on November 24, 1915, has fallen until at present the pound is equal to less than 23 pesetas. Freight rates opened this season at less than 7 cents per box and have risen to over 9½ cents.

In the British markets—which control price quotations for the raisin crop—the average opening prices were approximately \$2.05 per box, rising to about \$2.25, and afterwards falling until the present low figure of \$1.65 was reached. The f. o. b. cost of a box of raisins is estimated this season as averaging \$1, to which must be added about \$0.60 to cover freight and other charges. As the bulk of the crop was shipped and sold before the present low prices ruled, general returns should show a fair profit.

It is stated that the quality of the raisin crop this season is excellent. In quantity it does not quite come up to the estimates made at the beginning of the season.

EFFORTS TO RESUME WORK ON CHINESE COAL MINE.

[John R. Arnold, office of commercial attaché, Peking, Oct. 24.]

Reports have been received of a project for the development of a field producing coal of good quality, at Fenghuangshan, Hsuancheng district, in Nganhwei Province. About a square mile of this field, which is said to be very extensive, was granted to a native concessionaire 4 or 5 years ago, and this man formed a corporation to develop it. Three veins of excellent coal had been struck when operations were stopped by disturbed conditions in 1913. Now the promoter is endeavoring to interest capitalists in Shanghai, with the object of resuming work on the mine, which he believes can be profitably developed.

IMPORTS OF CANNED GOODS INTO CANADA.

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Ontario, Dec. 15.]

On account of a shortage of canned goods in the Dominion this year, considerable quantities have been imported, chiefly from the United States. Recent imports of this kind from Spain, however, have materially increased. The Canadian Grocer states:

The recent introduction of Spanish canned tomatoes on the Canadian market has led to an increased interest in this country's goods. Prior to the war, Spain was satisfied to supply her own markets, but of late she has been reaching out for a share of the world trade in this line. The shortage in Canadian canned goods this year gave a very favorable opening. To what extent Spain will become a competitive factor with our own canneries in times of plenty remains to be seen. The introduction of these goods has been too recent, also, to permit of a thorough inquiry into their merits. For the first eight months of the present year Spain's shipments of canned vegetables totaled 7,009 tons, as against 5,631 tons for the corresponding period of last year.

Spain is also becoming a formidable figure in the sardine industry. There was an increase in exports of 3,500 tons this year in canned sardines, as well as a most remarkable increase in smoked fish. The value of Spain's exports in this line of goods alone this year has been close to \$4,000,000. Evidently Spain is a country to be reckoned with in the provision business.

[Articles on the Canadian market for canned goods were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 28, Oct. 31, and Nov. 3, 1916.]

OIL PRODUCTION FROM BRAZILIAN BICUHYBA.

[Consul General Alfred L. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 21.]

Occasional inquiries from the United States reveal an interest in possible new sources of oil-producing nuts. The Brazilian "bicuhya," which is found principally in the States of Minas Geraes and Espirito Santo, is understood to have been tested in the United States. The meat is said to contain slightly more than 60 per cent of fats and the shells a little more than 4 per cent. The meat of the nut constitutes about three-fifths of its entire weight. Assuming that five-sixths of the oil contained in the meat were extractable, this would mean a yield of about 3 pounds of the salable product from every 10 pounds of nuts.

Various persons here who are endeavoring to create a trade in this class of raw products state that the "bicuhya" nuts are not yet obtainable in sufficient quantities to be exported, and that each tree yields only one arroba (about 35 pounds) of nuts each season.

It would not be possible to obtain these nuts at less than \$100 United States currency per ton (the price quoted by some is \$125 per ton) f. o. b. Rio de Janeiro, bringing the cost of the extracted oil to about 15 cents per pound. This is without calculating the high freight rates that now prevail.

EXPORTS OF COCOA BEANS FROM GOLD COAST.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Nov. 9.]

The production and exports of cocoa beans from the Gold Coast Colony, British West Africa, during the first nine months of 1916 amounted to 55,743 tons (of 2,240 pounds each), valued at \$15,216,639, as against 50,578 tons, valued at \$10,097,704, for the first nine months of 1915. The average price per ton for the first nine months in 1915 was \$199.64, while the average price for the first nine months in 1916 was \$272.98 per ton.

GUATEMALA GRANTS CONCESSION FOR COAST CANAL.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City, Nov. 24.]

An intracoastal canal, skirting the Pacific coast of Guatemala and extending 80 miles from San José to the Esclaves River, is proposed by a company now in process of formation which has just been granted a concession by the Guatemalan Government.

The Chiquimulilla Canal, as it is called and as it appears on the map of Guatemala, consists of a series of lagoons or estuaries along the coast. These bodies of water, known as "esteros," are of irregular formation and have an average depth of 3 feet. From San José to the Michitoya River, a distance of 10 miles, the shallow lakes are connected by a canal and are navigated by Indians with canoes. It is proposed to dredge the existing canal so as to cut a channel 40 feet wide and of sufficient depth to permit navigation by flat-bottomed vessels of a maximum draft of 3 feet.

It is proposed to extend the channel at varying distances of 1 to 5 miles from the ocean, again utilizing a series of shallow lakes or lagoons, from the mouth of the Michitoya River to the mouth of the Esclaves River, a length of 70 miles. The mouth of the Esclaves River is 10 miles from the border of the Republic of Salvador.

To Produce Another Harbor on Pacific Coast.

The Esclaves River at its mouth is about a mile wide and of great depth, although it has a bar of only 4 feet at low tide. It is proposed to remove this bar by building a jetty, and thereby give Guatemala another harbor on the Pacific coast.

Flat-bottomed steamers, having no more than 3 feet draft, such as it is proposed to utilize, are now employed in navigating the Dulce River between Livingston and Panzos, a distance of 120 miles. A force of 76 men is now at work clearing timber and removing the tropical growth in the vicinity of Chiquimulilla, and it is stated that two steam dredges have been ordered and will shortly begin work. Engineering plans for the project as a whole, it is announced, have not yet been completed, but an unofficial estimate was made that the work will require a year, and will cost at least \$750,000 United States gold.

It is claimed that the canal will afford transportation facilities to a rich and productive region of the Republic, now without either rail or water transportation, and the estimated tonnage for the first year of operation is 500,000. Sugar, coffee, rice, and hides will be the principal tonnage producers.

Official Journal Publishes Terms of Grant.

The concession granted by the Government of Guatemala, as published November 3, 1916, in *El Guatemalteco*, the official journal of the Government, translated, is as follows:

Application has been presented to this office to construct a canal to be known as the Chiquimulilla Canal, with the object of placing at the disposal of the public a line of transportation boats for the carriage of passengers and of freight. In accordance with the application on file, and for a term of 49 years, the following privileges and concessions are granted:

1. The right to exploit and navigate, during the term of this concession, all waters, rivers, and tributaries, estuaries from the ocean or of fresh water, which together form the system known as the Chiquimulilla Canal.
2. Authorization is also granted to establish and maintain a telephone line, paralleling the canal; also the right is granted to establish a plant for generating

electric power, and for this purpose to use the waters of any rivers or streams entering or leaving the said canal.

3. Permission is granted to construct and maintain on the lands of the Republic adjoining the canal all the buildings, stations, warehouses, or workshops necessary for the operation of the canal. Right is granted to cut and remove timber along the canal for construction purposes or for fuel, and the right is conveyed to build and operate a shipyard or dockyard.

4. Exemption is granted to the concessionaires from taxation or impost of any description, national or municipal.

5. Right is granted for the free importation of the following objects intended for the canal: Coal, petroleum, gasoline, and all material necessary for the construction of ships, such as iron, copper, galvanized iron, cables of metal or vegetable fiber; also material and apparatus necessary for the construction and maintenance of a telephone system and an electric-power plant.

6. Right is granted to extend the canal at a later date along the western part of the Republic.

7. In compliance with the law the present publication is made.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of vacua.	Address.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.....	Feb. 10	2418 Seventh Street, Meridian, Miss.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.....	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua.....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Jan. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 24	48 Savage Street, Charleston, S. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.....	do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

MARKET FOR AMERICAN CONFECTIONERY IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul H. D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, Dec. 4.]

There has been a marked increase in the sales of American confectionery in Dunfermline and vicinity since its introduction several years ago through the efforts of this consulate. The scarcity and consequent high price of sugar has added to the volume of American sales recently, and larger direct purchases of candy are now being made by local retail dealers than ever. Sales of American candies are now ahead of any other country except England and perhaps Switzerland. Five American confectionery houses are now doing business in Dunfermline, four of them by direct shipments through New York and Glasgow and one large concern controlling a profitable home trade through Edinburgh and London.

If more American bonbons were placed on the market they might find ready sale, although chocolates and the cheaper middle grade of sweets seem to command favor, as in the past.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency-----	23352	Padlocks-----	23354
Aniline dyes, and colors-----	23350	Paste-----	23350
Chemical products-----	23350	Pins, drawing-----	23354
Clips, paper-----	23354	Pins, safety-----	23354
Curling irons-----	23354	Placards, advertising-----	23353
Enameled ware-----	23354	Posters, advertising-----	23353
Hardwoods-----	23355	Rice mill-----	23351
Hollow ware-----	23354	Sawmill-----	23349
Iron in sheets-----	23356	Sulphate of copper-----	23348
Novelties, advertising-----	23353	Tools-----	23354
Oils-----	23350	Veneers-----	23355

23348.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for sulphate of copper, to be used in treating wood. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23349.*—A man in Nicaragua desires to purchase a sawmill having a double saw and carriage complete; top saw to be 80 inches in diameter and the bottom saw 60 inches in diameter. The sawmill is to be delivered to the agent of the purchaser in New York. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.

23350.*—A firm of wholesale commission merchants in Spain wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of aniline dyes, oils, paste, colors, and chemical products used in pharmacy and in the textile industry. Correspondence in Spanish or French. References.

23351.*—A man in Brazil desires to purchase a combination rice mill. The mill should be in one unit, with an additional primary separator carrying a fan. An illustration of the kind of mill desired, with sizes and dimensions, may be seen at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to file No. 81638.) Information regarding prices and the earliest date upon which the mill can be shipped is desired by cable. Cash will be paid.

23352.†—A company in Portugal is desirous of representing American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line of goods is specified.

23353.*—A firm in Norway wishes to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of advertising novelties, posters, and placards of metal, celluloid, or paper. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23354.‡—A business man in France wishes to represent American manufacturers of hollow ware, enameled goods, padlocks, small tools, curling irons, safety pins, drawing pins, and paper clips. Cash will be paid against documents. He states he will furnish references upon request.

23355.*—A furniture manufacturer in Switzerland is in the market for hardwoods of various kinds and veneers. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23356.*—A company in Spain desires to purchase sheet iron for stamping kitchenware, etc. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. The company will furnish references upon request.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

WASHINGTON: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1916

JAN 6 1917

COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 303 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 27 1916

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BREAD SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Nov. 16.]

Rumors have been current recently that there would be another season of compulsory brown bread and no white bread in Holland, as there was for two months last spring (from April 24 to June 24), owing to a scarcity of wheat flour. Rumors of universal bread cards and of restricted consumption of bread have also been current. Such rumors are not unreasonable, as they arise from the small margin of wheat and flour in this country and the possibility, if not probability, of that margin being completely exhausted by the delay or loss of wheat-laden steamers.

The uncertain situation has at any rate increased the price of breadstuffs. To meet this a small advance in the price of a loaf of bread is now authorized by the city government of Amsterdam, which is prescribing maximum prices for many food articles. The price of white bread may now be the equivalent of 6 and 7 American cents a pound for water and milk bread, respectively, delivered at one's house. The price of "Government bread" (brown, whole-wheat flour) remains unchanged at 2½ American cents per pound, if a bread card furnished by the Amsterdam municipality is produced, otherwise a higher price may be charged for this bread. The object of this brown-bread card is to guarantee a known fixed price for the benefit of the poorer classes. No cards are provided for the white bread.

COLOMBIA ADOPTS MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE SAVING.

The Colombian Congress has adopted a measure providing for the appointment, by the Minister of Public Instruction, of a commission to investigate methods for promoting saving throughout the country. This commission will work out a general plan of organization of public and school savings banks, retirement funds, and societies for mutual aid and cooperative buying. In conjunction with the minister the commission will draw up a bill covering its recommendations, for consideration by the Congress in its regular session in 1917.

BRAZILIAN WOOL EXPORTS.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 10.]

Although the greater part of Brazil is somewhat tropically situated ever to become a producer of wool, wool is grown in the southern part of the Republic, notably in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, where the climate is more suitable. The port of Rio Grande in that State is to-day the chief outlet for Brazilian wool.

Until the commencement of the European war the bulk of the shipments went to Belgium. During 1915 exports (which were less than half those of previous years) were divided about equally among Argentina, Uruguay, and the United States, as the following table shows:

Ports and countries.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
PORTS OF ORIGIN.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Bahia.....	4,860		388		
Corumba.....				154	2,005
Itaquil.....	126,766	153,486	115,522	92,374	100,616
Pelotas.....		214,519	425,027	32,966	198,085
Pernambuco.....					230
Porto Alegre.....	44,092	4,530			
Porto Murinho.....	242	886	1,327	884	1,385
Quershy.....	120,502	3,042	97,296		
Rio de Janeiro.....	5,115	45,988	11,023	1,500	24,925
Rio Grande.....	1,832,213	3,776,179	2,173,677	2,286,860	612,809
Santos.....					1,608
Sao Borja.....	14,180				
S. Victoria do Palmar.....			14,550	32,455	
Uruguayana.....					58,580
COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION.					
United States.....				3,489	342,126
Argentina.....	38,376				235,969
Belgium.....	1,866,368	3,426,190	2,105,886	2,184,600	
France.....	6,137	42,973	11,023	1,500	
Germany.....	81,680	441,222	24,815	83,004	
Italy.....	220				1,005
Norway.....					239
Portugal.....	1,870				
Sweden.....					4,215
United Kingdom.....	3,271	59,525	118,598	92,374	35,275
Uruguay.....	133,108	228,720	578,483	83,235	267,899
Total quantity.....	2,147,970	4,198,630	2,838,804	2,448,193	997,638
Total value.....	\$311,396	\$571,276	\$394,155	\$251,544	\$193,085

For some reason there seems to be a revival of interest among American merchants on the subject of Brazilian wool. Two American concerns have sent representatives here to look over the field.

The Brazil Land & Cattle Development Co. is said to have had very remarkable success in raising sheep of the Romney March breed near Morongaba, State of Parana. In the interior of the State of Minas Geraes a colony of Uruguayans has been having like success with sheep of the same type but is apparently not yet exporting wool in appreciable quantity.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN GERMANY.

[Consul Harry G. Seltzer, Breslau, Nov. 17.]

According to a publication of the German Imperial Statistical Bureau, the number of tobacco growers in Germany in 1916 was 85,066, against 60,897 in 1914 and 86,953 in 1913. There were 31,396 acres of tobacco plantations in 1916, against 22,277 acres in 1915 and 25,587 acres in 1914, thus showing a large increase in the area under this product.

WOODEN SHIP BUILDING IN UNITED STATES.

Wooden merchant vessels of 500 gross tons or over building or under contract to be built in private shipyards of the United States on December 1, 1916, number 116, of 156,615 gross tons. Letters requesting information on the subject were sent by the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce, on November 23, 1916, to 145 builders of wooden vessels of the minimum tonnage named. Most of the principal builders have replied, but the summary below is not to be accepted as complete. Later returns will be included in a statement to be issued in January covering the situation at the beginning of 1917.

Number and Tonnage Building, by Districts.

The geographical distribution of tonnage under construction is shown by the following table:

Geographical division.	Total construction.		Sail and unrigged.		Power.	
	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.	No.	Gross tons.
New England.....	16	17,073	16	17,073		
Middle Atlantic coast.....	23	23,542	22	22,542	1	1,000
South Atlantic and Gulf coast.....	34	40,650	8	a 4,725	26	35,925
Puget Sound and Columbia River.....	36	a 63,150	1	(b)	35	63,150
California coast.....	7	12,200	2	2,500	5	9,700
Total.....	116	a 156,615	49	a 46,840	67	100,775

a Tonnage incomplete.

b Tonnage not stated.

Vessels Under Construction or Contracted for at Various Yards.

The following tables give the details regarding the vessels under construction in the various yards. The letters "C" and "F," representing coasting and foreign trade, respectively, have been inserted in the column headed "Trade" when the bureau's information covers that point, as well as the particular cargo for which the several vessels are intended.

NEW ENGLAND.

Name or builder's number.	Gross tonnage.	Description.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Atlantic Coast Co., Thomaston, Me.: No. 1.....	1,600	4-m. sch.....	Builder's account.....	General.	Feb. —, 1917
No. 2.....	1,600	...do.....	...do.....	...do.....	
Bowker Shipyard, Phippsburg, Me.: No. 30.....	560	3-m. sch.....	W. S. Roberts.....		Jan. —, 1917
Francis Cobb Co., Rockland, Me.: Noble Maxwell..	578	Lighter.....	Boston Equipment & Dock Co.....	C. Sand.	Launched.
Frank A. Morey..	470	3-m. sch.....	Rogers & Webb.....	C.....	Feb. —, 1917
No. 68.....	470	4-m. sch.....	A. P. Vane.....	...do.....	Apr. —, 1917
No. 69.....	1,400	...do.....	Crowell & Thurlow.....	...do.....	June —, 1917
G. O. Deering Co., Bath, Me.: No. 27.....	1,400	4-m. sch.....	Builder's account.....	...do.....	Mar. —, 1917
Capt. Geo. A. Gilchrist, Thomaston, Me.: Hartford & New York Transportation Co., Hartford, Conn.: H. & N. Y. T. Co. No. 33.	1,200 551	4 m. sch..... Unrigged....	Frank B. & Fred McQuesten..... Builder's account.....	Lumber. C. coal..	Do. May — 1917

NEW ENGLAND—Continued.

Name or builder's number.	Gross tonnage.	Description.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Kelly-Spear Co. Bath, Me.					
Northern No. 7..	1,602	3 m. sch. bge.	Northern Transportation Co.	C. coal..	Jan. — 1917
Manor.....	1,602	.....do.....	Penn Gas Coal Co. ....	.....do.....	Apr. — 1917
L. L. Snow & Co., Rockland, Me.:					
No. 31.....	700	2 m. sch.....	Atlantic Maritime Co.....	C.....	Do.
Richard T. Green Co., Chelsea, Mass.					
.....	1,200	4 m. bkn.....	Federal Transportation Co.....	F.....	Jan. 1, 1917
.....	1,200	.....do.....	.....do.....	F.....	June 1, 1917
Townsend Marine Railway & Con- struction Co., Boothbay Harbor, Me.:					
.....	950	4 m. sch.....	Crowell & Thurlow.....	.....	Aug. — 1917

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST.

American Car & Foundry Co., Wil- mington, Del.:					
.....	1,371	Barge.....	P. Dougherty Co.	C.....	
.....	1,371	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	
.....	1,000	.....do.....	Southern Transportation Co.	C.....	
.....	1,000	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	
.....	850	Car float.....	Pennsylvania R. R. Co.	C.....	
.....	850	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	
.....	850	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	
.....	300	Scow.....	A. MacKenzie.....	C.....	
.....	1,100	Car float.....	B. & O. R. R. Co.	C.....	
Charles L. Rohde & Sons Co., Balti- more, Md.:					
No. 152.....	600	Barge.....	Eastern Transportation Co.	C.....	Jan. 15, 1917
No. 170.....	600	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	Apr. —, 1917
Coastwise Shipbuild- ing Co., Baltimore, Md.:					
Belmont.....	960	3 m. sch. bge.	Reading Co.	C. coal..	Feb. —, 1917
Glen side.....	960	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Mar. —, 1917
Pennington.....	960	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Apr. —, 1917
Pottstown.....	960	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Tloga.....	960	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	May —, 1917
Trenton.....	960	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	June —, 1917
No. 7.....	740	2 m. sch. bge.	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
No. 8.....	740	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	July —, 1917
No. 9.....	740	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Aug. —, 1917
No. 10.....	740	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Sept. —, 1917
M. Mitchell Davis & Son, Solomons, Md.:					
.....	1,250	*Unrigged.....	Northern Transportation Co.	C.....	Dec. 1, 1915
.....	1,000	St. s.....	Baltimore & Carolina S. S. Co.	C.....	Apr. 1, 1917
.....	1,500	Unrigged.....	Northern Transportation Co.	C.....	1917 del.
.....	1,500	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	Do.
.....	1,500	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	Do.
.....	1,250	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	1918 del.
.....	1,250	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	Do.
.....	1,250	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	Do.
.....	1,250	.....do.....	.....do.....	C.....	Do.
Sharptown Marine Railway Co., Sharptown, Md.:					
No. 11.....	750	4 m. sch.....	White Shipping Co.	C.....	June —, 1917
Southern Transpor- tation Co., Ches- apeake City, Md.:					
.....	650	Barge.....	Bullder's account.....	C.....	Mar. 1, 1917
E. James Tull, Peco- moke City, Md.:					
No. 43.....	600	4 m. sch.....	Chas. M. Struven.....	C.....	Feb. 1, 1917

SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS.

Name or builder's number.	Gross tonnage.	Description.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
Brunswick Marine Construction Corporation, Brunswick, Ga.:					
No. 1.....	1,400	4 m. aux. sch.	R. Lawrence Smith.....	C.....	Feb. 1, 1917
No. 2.....	1,400	do.....	do.....	C.....	Do.
No. 3.....	2,250	do.....	Apex Navigation Co.....	F.....	June 1, 1917
No. 4.....	2,250	do.....	do.....	F.....	July 1, 1917
No. 5.....	2,250	do.....	do.....	F.....	Aug. 1, 1917
Brunswick Shipbuilding Co., Brunswick, Ga.:					
	725	3 m. sch.....	Brunswick Shipbuilding Co.....		Dec. —, 1916
Clooney Construction & Towing Co., Westlake, La.:					
No. 269.....	650	4 m. aux. sch.	N. E. Turner.....	C. lumber.	Launched.
No. 271.....	700	do.....	do.....	do.....	Jan. —, 1917
No. 272.....	945	Car ferry.....	G. C. & S. F. R. R. Co.....	C.....	Launched.
No. 273.....	700	4 m. sch.....	Aiken Towboat Co.....	C. lumber.	Do.
No. 274.....	650	4 m. aux. sch.	N. E. Turner.....	do.....	Feb. —, 1917
No. 275.....	700	4 m. sch. bge.	Hudson Transportation Co.....	do.....	Do.
No. 276.....	700	do.....	do.....	do.....	Apr. —, 1917
No. 277.....	500	3 m. sch.....	Adams & Eddington.....	do.....	Jan. —, 1917
No. 279.....	500	do.....	do.....	do.....	Apr. —, 1917
Hillyer-Spearing-Dunn Co., Jacksonville, Fla.:					
	780	3 m. aux. sch.	Builder's account.....	C. & F..	June 1, 1917
Howland & Nelson, Beaumont, Tex.:					
No. 1.....	600	3 m. sch.....	Orange Maritime Corporation.....	Lumber.	Jan. 1, 1917
Henry Piaggio, Orange, Tex.:					
City of Orange...	1,800	5 m. aux. sch.	Not given.....	F.....	Launched.
—.....	1,800	do.....	do.....	F.....	—.....
—.....	—.....	4 m. sch.....	do.....	F.....	—.....
—.....	2,400	6 m. aux. sch.	do.....	F.....	—.....
—.....	2,400	do.....	do.....	F.....	—.....
Savannah Engineering & Construction Co., Savannah, Ga.:					
No. 122.....	1,000	4 m. aux. sch.	R. Lawrence Smith & Normand Lind.....		Mar. 30, 1917
No. 123.....	1,000	do.....	R. Lawrence Smith.....		May 30, 1917
No. 127.....	1,000	do.....	Celtic Transportation Co.....		—.....
Siddell Shipbuilding Co. (Inc.), Slidell, La.:					
Baltic-1.....	1,200	2 m. aux. sch.	Baltic S. S. Co.....	F.....	Dec. 16, 1916
Baltic-2.....	1,200	do.....	do.....	F.....	Do.
Maple.....	750	do.....	C. L. Dimon.....	C.....	Jan. —, 1917
Cypress.....	1,000	do.....	do.....	C.....	Feb. —, 1917
Laurel.....	1,000	do.....	do.....	C.....	Mar. —, 1917
Baltic-3.....	1,200	do.....	Baltic S. S. Co.....	F.....	June —, 1917
Baltic-4.....	1,200	do.....	do.....	F.....	July —, 1917
Wilmington Iron Works, Wilmington, N. C.:					
No. 7.....	2,000	4m. aux. sch.	Not given.....	F.....	—.....
No. 8.....	2,000	do.....	do.....	F.....	—.....

PUGET SOUND AND COLUMBIA RIVER.

Grays Harbor Shipbuilding Co., Aberdeen, Wash.:					
Santino.....	2,500	5 m. aux. sch.	Swayne & Hoyt.....	Lumber.	Launched.
No. 2.....	2,500	do.....	Gaston, Williams & Wigmore.....	do.....	Jan. 1, 1917
No. 3.....	2,500	do.....	do.....	do.....	Mar. 1, 1917
No. 6.....	2,500	do.....	For Norwegian account.....	do.....	Apr. 15, 1917
No. 8.....	2,500	do.....	do.....	do.....	June 1, 1917
No. 9.....	2,500	do.....	do.....	do.....	—.....
Kruso & Banks, Northbend, Oreg.:					
Stanwood.....	1,500	2m. aux. sch.	Byxbee & Clark Co.....	Lumber.	Launched.
Port Angeles.....	1,500	do.....	Chas. Nelson Co.....	do.....	Do.
Florence Olsen.....	1,500	do.....	Oliver J. Olson.....	do.....	Jan. 1, 1917
Horace X. Baxter.....	1,500	do.....	Chas. H. Baxter & Co.....	do.....	Early, 1917.
—.....	1,500	do.....	C. A. Smith Lumber Co.....	do.....	Do.

PUGET SOUND AND COLUMBIA RIVER—Continued.

Name or builder's number.	Gross tonnage.	Description.	Owner.	Trade.	Probable date of launch.
McAteer Shipbuilding Co., Seattle, Wash.:		Floating dry dock.	Not given.		
McEachern Ship Co., Astoria, Oreg.: City of Astoria..	1,600	4 m. aux. schooner.	A. O. Andersen & Co.	C. & F.	Launched.
Margaret.....	1,600	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 15, 1916
Mary.....	1,600	do.	do.	do.	Jan. 15, 1917
May.....	1,800	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 15, 1917
Astri.....	1,800	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 15, 1917
No. 6.....	1,800	do.	do.	do.	Apr. 15, 1917
No. 7.....	1,800	do.	do.	do.	May 15, 1917
No. 8.....	1,800	do.	do.	do.	June 15, 1917
Mathews Shipbuilding Co., Hoquiam, Wash.:					
No. 38.....	1,800	Ga. s., 10½ kn.	W. R. Grace & Co.	F.	Feb. —, 1917
No. 39.....	1,800	do.	do.	F.	May —, 1917
Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging Co., Seattle, Wash.: e					
.....	2,500	4 m. aux. schooner.	Pacific Motorship Co., Norway	F. lumber.	Dec. —, 1916
.....	2,500	do.	do.	do.	Jan. —, 1917
.....	2,500	do.	Alex. Prebensen, Norway.	do.	Feb. —, 1917
.....	2,500	do.	do.	do.	Mar. —, 1917
St. Helens Shipbuilding Co., St. Helens, Wash.:					
S. I. Allard.....	1,830	5 m. aux. sch.	Chas. R. McCormick & Co.	Lumber.	Dec. —, 1916
City of St. Helens.....	1,870	do.	do.	do.	Mar. —, 1917
Frank D. Stout..	1,000	aux. sch.	Cal. & Oreg. Lumber Co.	do.	Apr. —, 1917
No. 40.....	1,500	5 m. aux. sch.	H. F. McCormick	do.	
Wahkeena.....	1,000	aux. sch.	Chas. R. McCormick & Co.	do.	Nov. —, 1917
Seaborn Shipbuilding Co., Tacoma, Wash.:					
No. 1.....	1,500	5 m. aux. sch.	H. F. Ostrander.	F. lumber.	Dec. 9, 1916
No. 2.....	700	3 m. aux. sch.	do.	do.	Dec. 31, 1916
No. 3.....	1,700	5 m. aux. sch.	H. Chr. Hansen, Norway	do.	Aug. 1, 1917
No. 4.....	900	St. s.	Ostrander & Morrison.	C. lumber.	Do.
Winslow Marine Ry. & Shipbuilding Co., (Inc.), Winslow, Wash.:					
No. 142.....	1,250	2 m. aux. sch.	Coastwise S. S. & Bge. Co., Seattle.	C. cargo & tow.	May —, 1917

CALIFORNIA COAST.

Benicia Shipyards Co., Benicia, Cal.:					
Rose Mahony...	1,250	4 m. sch.	Andrew F. Mahony	F.	Mar. 1, 1917
Andrew F. Mahony.	1,250	do.	do.	F.	May 1, 1917
Chas. E. Fulton, San Pedro, Cal.:					
.....	1,300	3 m. aux. sch.	J. R. Hanly Co.	F. lumber.	Feb. —, 1917
.....	1,300	do.	Sudden & Christensen.	do.	Do.
Hanlon Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co., Oakland, Cal.:					
Falkland.....	3,500	5 m. aux. sch.	For Norwegian account.	F.	Jan. 1, 1917
W. F. Stone, Oakland, Cal.:					
Robt. C. Sudden.	1,800	3 m. aux. sch.	Sudden & Christensen.	C. lumber.	Jan. —, 1917
Ryder Hanly...	1,800	do.	J. R. Hanly Co.	F. lumber.	Do.

e Sublet by Washington Shipping Corporation, Seattle, Wash.

e Sublet to Wilson Bros., Astoria, Oreg.

BIDDING ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS IN SPAIN.

[Consul Ely E. Palmer, Madrid, Nov. 20.]

The Gaceta de Madrid, official organ of the Spanish Government, under date of November 17, 1916, announces the conditions under which the municipality of Madrid plans to acquire two motor-driven street sweepers and four motor-driven watering carts, the latter not to exceed 28,000 pesetas (\$5,400) each, nor the former 20,000 pesetas (\$3,860).

Under the law of February 14, 1907, as now effective [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 2 and Nov. 11, 1916], bids for furnishing this street-cleaning apparatus may be submitted by both Spanish and foreign firms; but among the conditions governing the submission of bids is one requiring that all proposals shall be presented in the Registro General del Ayuntamiento in this city within one month after the publication of these conditions in the Gaceta. It is obvious that even with telegraphic notification American manufacturers desirous of submitting bids for furnishing this apparatus would find it impossible to submit such bids within the period specified. While in the present instance the value of the apparatus to be purchased is not great, there is no reason for supposing that future and more important purchases of this character will be governed by conditions more favorable to the manufacturer in America. At the present time the municipality of Madrid has under consideration a proposed loan of 146,000,000 pesetas (\$28,178,000), a portion of which, if approved, will be expended for fire, street cleaning, and similar apparatus, this being but one of several important municipal and national projects involving the purchase of large quantities of apparatus and material that might advantageously be imported from the United States.

It seems important, therefore, to bring most seriously to the attention of American manufacturers of automobile trucks and motor-driven street-cleaning and fire apparatus, and to all other American manufacturers interested in obtaining a share in the important Federal and municipal government contracts that may from time to time be open to their bids, the advisability of establishing in Madrid some sort of representation that will enable them to overcome the time and distance handicaps, which, without such representation, are practically prohibitive.

CHINA SEEKS FACTS REGARDING THE LIKIN.

[John R. Arnold, in charge, office of the commercial attaché, Peking, Oct. 24.]

As a result of the recent discussion of the likin question and the suggestions that are being made from time to time to modify or abolish that form of taxation, interest attaches to the announcement that the Chinese Minister of Finance has sent a circular telegram to the various Provinces, inquiring as to the number of likin offices, the annual income derived from them, the average collections of the past three years, the number under foreign management, the shortage that would exist in the provincial revenues if the likin were to be abolished, and the best way of bringing about such abolition. Answers to this circular are requested within a month.

DROUGHT AND LOCUST SCOURGE IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Nov. 15; supplementing report in COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec 8, 1916.]

Official and unofficial reports indicate that the grain harvest for the season of 1916-17 will be the poorest that Argentina has had for many years. The rainfall during the 12 months commencing with November, 1915, has been the smallest since 1893. In the city of Buenos Aires alone the rainfall during the four months July to October, 1916, amounted to 53 millimeters (2.087 inches), whereas the average rainfall for Buenos Aires during the last 46 years has been 935 millimeters (36.811 inches) annually. Only in the extreme western and southwestern parts of the Province of Buenos Aires and in the northeastern part of the Province of Corrientes has the rainfall exceeded 200 millimeters (7.874 inches) during this four-month period. In the main grain belt in the northern part of the Province of Buenos Aires not over 25 millimeters (0.984 inch) of rain has been registered, and in the Provinces of Cordoba, Santa Fe, San Luis, and Mendoza the precipitation has been considerably below 25 millimeters. The wheat and oats sown in these Provinces have been almost entirely lost.

Pasture lands throughout the entire country are in a precarious condition, and cattle are suffering greatly. Large numbers are reported to be dying in the Province of Santa Fe from insufficient pasturage. The Argentine Department of Agriculture has recently obtained from the railroad companies a reduction in freights for transporting cattle from sections most affected by the drought to places where some pasturage still exists.

Damage by Locusts—Cereal Exports will be Smaller.

In addition to the drought which has already produced so much destruction, swarms of locusts have made an especially early appearance this year in the northern part of the grain belt, causing considerable damage. Throughout most of Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and Corrientes Provinces the locusts have attacked everything in sight and are swiftly moving southward. The Argentine Agricultural Department is doing everything in its power to combat this scourge, but the plague has already grown to such proportions that the work can be carried on only with difficulty. Recently the Minister of Agriculture sought the assistance of the different railways in Argentina in cooperating with his department in exterminating these pests, and the railways have agreed to furnish free transportation to the employees of the Department of Agriculture and to all the equipment necessary in the work of extermination as well as other aid.

The drought and the locust scourge, however, have already wrought so much destruction that it is estimated that the amount of wheat available for export this season will be only 1,000,000 tons instead of the usual 2,500,000 tons available in normal years. Estimates of the linseed and oats available for export do not exceed 200,000 tons and 600,000 tons, respectively, as against an average annual exportation of 675,000 tons of linseed and 625,000 tons of oats for the five years since 1910. It is as yet too early to obtain any estimate of the available supplies of maize for export during the season of 1916-17,

although if climatic conditions be favorable the outlook appears good in view of the fact that much of the land on which the wheat is a failure is now being replowed and resown with maize, greatly increasing the acreage under this grain.

Record Prices Being Obtained.

Prices for the leading cereals in Argentina have reached unheard-of figures on the local grain exchange. Wheat was quoted November 10 at 15.30 pesos Argentine paper per 100 kilos, equivalent (at 60 pounds to the bushel and \$0.4245 to the peso) to \$1.77 United States currency per bushel, against a normal price in 1915 of 11.74 pesos per 100 kilos, or \$1.36 per bushel. Linseed for January delivery is quoted at 25.50 pesos per 100 kilos (1.50 pesos less for spot delivery), or \$2.95 per bushel, against 10.68 pesos in 1915, equivalent to \$1.23 per bushel. Maize, which brought an average price of 4.95 pesos per 100 kilos, or \$0.57 per bushel, in 1915, is now being quoted at 10 pesos, or \$1.16 a bushel. Oats also have greatly increased in price. These figures are the highest ever quoted on the Buenos Aires Cereal Exchange, and it is predicted that still higher levels will be reached.

NEW BRITISH CONTRACT FOR NEW ZEALAND MEAT.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Nov. 24.]

Through the good offices of the New Zealand Government the meat producers of New Zealand have entered into an agreement with the Imperial British Government for the entire exportable meat supply of this Dominion from October 20 until at least three months after the close of the European war, at an advance price over that paid last year. The new prices, free on board steamer at port of shipment, are as follows, per pound:

	Cents.
Wethers, first quality, 72 pounds and under.....	10½
Wethers, first quality, over 72 pounds.....	10½
Wethers, second quality.....	10½
Ewes, first quality, 72 pounds and under.....	9½
Ewes, first quality, over 72 pounds.....	9½
Ewes, second quality.....	9½
Lamb, specially prime, 42 pounds and under.....	13
Lamb, first quality, 42 pounds and under.....	12½
Lamb, first quality, over 42 pounds.....	12½
Lamb, second quality.....	12½
Beef, prime ox.....	10
Beef, second and helper.....	9½
Beef, boning, in quarters.....	8½
Beef, cow, prime.....	9½
Beef, cow, second.....	8½
Beef, boneless.....	10½
Mutton, legs.....	12½
Mutton, shoulders.....	10½
Mutton, loins.....	10½

It is estimated that the increased price will mean about \$5,000,000 per annum more for the meat producers of New Zealand, and this practically spot cash.

A New Jersey rat-extinator company, which wrote to Consul Wesley Frost some months ago seeking connections in Cork, Ireland, now informs him that it has placed a considerable consignment with a firm whose address he supplied.

CREDIT SITUATION IN ASIATIC RUSSIA.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Dec. 18.]

Agriculture is the most important industry of Siberia; hence the purchasing power of the population is dependent largely upon the harvests, and ready money is plentiful only during a few months of the year. These factors naturally affect the mode of payment desired by local dealers for the foreign goods that they require.

German Credit Arrangements.

European manufacturers have extended widely varying credits in Siberia, according to the kind of goods sold and other circumstances. German firms who were the most successful in competing for Siberian business granted credits of three to nine months against time drafts or promissory notes, and on some articles, such as engines and all kinds of machinery, payments by installment were received over a period of two or three years. In the case of the more responsible firms with whom the manufacturer or exporter had established connections, sales were often made on open credit. The *del credere* business developed by the German banks was an important feature in connection with the financing of German trade with Siberia. In accordance with an arrangement made between a local bank and a buyer of German goods, the discharge of the latter's obligations was guaranteed to the exporter's bank in Germany. The larger houses in Siberia, as a rule, demand longer terms of credit than are extended to the smaller firms.

British and American Methods.

British houses shipping general merchandise to Siberia have generally confined the granting of long-term credit to reliable firms with whom they have been dealing for a number of years. In the case of machinery and similar lines, however, they were more inclined to meet the terms accorded by their competitors. United States manufacturers have been reluctant to grant as long terms of credit as their European competitors, and, with a few local exceptions, have demanded cash against documents American seaport, or, at the most, draft attached to bill of lading. Consequently, United States products were sold through German middlemen, who relieved manufacturers of the credit risks.

Banking Facilities.

The Russo-Asiatic Bank, the Russian Bank for Foreign Trade, the Siberian Commercial Bank, and the Volga-Kama Bank maintain branches in the principal centers of Siberia and undertake the collection of drafts drawn by foreign manufacturers or export merchants on responsible importers. Time drafts duly accepted are exchanged for the shipping documents and are deposited for collection. A guaranty is seldom required; when given it usually consists of an additional promissory note with not less than two approved signatures. Previous to the war interest was charged for the time over which the credit extended at the rate of 6 to 8 per cent per annum. Approximately the same rate of interest was also charged by the local banks on loans used by importers for payments

on goods in cases where no credit was extended by the manufacturer. The banks as a rule also charge a commission of 1 to 2 per cent for opening a credit.

Information Regarding Customer's Standing.

The success of German firms in granting credits in Russia was largely due to the assistance afforded by the home banks. They were also greatly helped, however, by the fact that they frequently maintained their own resident agents, who were able to investigate carefully the credit standing of customers. In addition, valuable facilities were afforded by the mercantile agencies, such as the well-known Schimmelpfeng organization, whose ramifications in Russia were extensive. Outside of these aids, it is not always easy for foreign firms to obtain information respecting the standing of prospective customers. Banks as a rule are able only to supply particulars as to the extent of credit that they consider is safe to grant to the party concerned. It is also claimed that the banks are not always in a position to give disinterested estimates. These considerations, however, apply to only a certain class of firms. It is nearly always possible to obtain satisfactory references regarding the standing of responsible and old-established houses.

Western and Eastern Siberia.

Siberia from the trade point of view may be divided into two parts. The remarks regarding the credit situation have been based principally on the practices in western Siberia, or the territory between the Ural Mountains and Lake Baikal. A large share of the trade of this district is still in the hands of Moscow wholesale firms and the terms of purchase are arranged at that point. There are also a number of strong independent houses doing both a wholesale and a retail trade, which deal directly with the foreign manufacturer, but as a general rule it may be stated that so far as the granting of credit is concerned the conditions in western Siberia are similar to those found in European Russia. A few observations are necessary, however, with regard to the special conditions prevailing in eastern Siberia, or the territory between Lake Baikal and the Pacific Ocean. The trade in this district is more in the nature of a Far Eastern or specialized business, and is largely in the hands of a few large firms, who buy goods for the most part on open credit. The rate of interest charged by the banks at that point prior to the war was 8 to 9½ per cent per annum. Following the practice of the Far East, the banks have large warehouses where goods may be stored awaiting the collection of drafts. In other respects the granting of credit is subject to the same considerations in eastern Siberia as in the territory west of Lake Baikal.

Summary of Credit Situation in Siberia.

The credit situation in Siberia may be summed up by stating that credit has been one of the most characteristic features of the trade with this market. The extent of credit granted has been regarded by importers as one of the most desirable factors, and, the quality being the same, a preference has always been given to the manufacturers offering the best terms. Conflicting opinions are held as to

what will be the probable position on the return to conditions of peace. At present nearly all transactions are being conducted on a cash basis, and the experience thus gained is sure to have a salutary effect in the future. Moreover, it is thought that German firms will not be in a position financially to set the pace, as they have done in the past, by offering practically unlimited credits to responsible firms. On the other hand, the conditions peculiar to the economic position of the Russian Empire must not be overlooked. The bulk of the population being engaged in agricultural pursuits, there is a general liquidation of liabilities only once a year. The people, being still relatively poor, are able to discharge their obligations to the retailer only after realizing on their crops. The wholesaler accordingly is compelled to grant his customers credit varying up to 12 months. As a rule, however, he endeavors to receive on delivery of the goods a payment sufficient to cover his outlay for duty and inland freight charges. It is natural therefore that the foreign manufacturer should be asked to help finance the trade and that the credit factor should be looked upon as such an important consideration, frequently overbalancing that of price and quality. These points are especially applicable to a new and developing territory such as Siberia, where capital is relatively scarce. It is therefore considered desirable that manufacturers should extend such terms of credit as will enable the importers to receive the merchandise and allow for the turnover of a portion before payment is made. A term of six months on at least 75 per cent of the cost of the goods has been suggested as a reasonable standard for foreign manufacturers to adopt in granting credit to responsible Siberian customers, varying according to the nature of the goods and the customer concerned.

LACK OF MATERIALS CLOSES TREBIZOND LIQUOR PLANT.

[Consul W. L. Jenkins, Trebizond, Turkey, Nov. 11.]

A few years ago a small plant for the manufacture of liquor was established here, but it was closed after the outbreak of war. More recently it was adapted to the making of lemonade, and for a time did a good business. Bottles of one funt (0.9028 pound) are used. Work again is suspended on account of the lack not only of lemons, but also of carbonic acid, citric acid, and sugar. The materials required daily are 2 to 3 pounds of citric acid, 250 pounds of sugar, and 40 kilos (88.185 pounds) of carbonic acid. A stock of 30,000 bottles is needed.

The prospect of starting work again is said to be poor, for even if some way might be found of importing the acids in small quantities the lack of sugar is considered prohibitive. The industry, however, may be continued and developed after the war.

[The name of the owner of the plant may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 83098.]

Consul C. K. Moser reports orders for \$90,000 worth of leather and \$130,000 worth of dry goods as part of the business obtained in North Manchuria by American exporters during the September quarter as the result of the assistance, direct or indirect, of the Harbin consulate.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	2418 Seventh Street, Meridian, Miss.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua.....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Jan. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 24	48 Savage Street, Charleston, S. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mandota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	do.	"Islington," Walkersford, Amherst County, Va.
Saner, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

CHANGES IN SANITATION DISCUSSED AT SHANGHAI.

[John R. Arnold, office of commercial attaché, Peking, China, Oct. 24.]

The Shanghai press has lately devoted much space to a discussion of sanitation in that city. While reasonable effectiveness, so far as the control of disease is concerned, has been attained, the system has not been as modern or efficient as would be expected from the generally excellent municipal administration. This was due primarily to the fact that sanitary-waste products have a commercial value in China, and the method of removal was governed by the results obtained when viewed as a source of revenue. The International Settlement, which is the municipal area including the greater part of the commercial district, and is mainly controlled by the British residents, has clung to the old system, while the French Concession has introduced septic vaults and other improvements.

The immediate cause of the present discussion is the fact that the Government of the International Settlement places a charge on the cleaning of vaults which is claimed to be prohibitive. If changes are made, a big demand for modern plumbing apparatus will be created, and American manufacturers should share in the trade.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

BURMA'S WOLFRAM OUTPUT UNDER CHANGED CONDITIONS.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Rangoon, Oct. 23.]

Completed figures for 1915 show that the total production of wolfram from all sources in Burma amounted to 46,293 hundredweight, compared with 43,752 hundredweight in 1914, 32,091.5 in 1913, 32,224.5 in 1912, and 25,357 in 1911 (hundredweight=112 pounds). These figures do not include production from the southern Shan States, where wolfram is worked in conjunction with tin, and separate statistics are not recorded. The increase in output is considered satisfactory, and indications point to more substantial advances in future.

Wolfram occurs chiefly in Lower Burma, in the mountains to the east and northeast of Tavoy, in fissure veins traversing the granite and associated argillaceous rocks. Ground sluicing is the method of extracting most widely employed, but the hydraulic system is sometimes used, and actual mining in the veins is on the increase.

Said to be Largest Producer in World.

Other districts yielding this ore are Mergui, Thaton, and the southern Shan States, but Tavoy is by far the most important, and is said to have become the largest producer of wolfram in the world.

Until very recently capitalists have been inclined to hold aloof from the industry, but the facility with which certain owners have been able to develop their mines has attracted attention, and several British firms of considerable financial standing now exercise options over certain properties.

Hitherto the greater portion of the wolfram ore produced in Burma was taken up by Germany, but English smelters are now in a position to handle all the ore coming forward. Late figures show that from January 1 to October 7, 1916, there were 2,702 tons of wolfram exported, compared with 1,844 tons in the corresponding period of 1915.

An article in the Rangoon Gazette contains interesting particulars concerning wolfram mining in Burma. It states in part:

Wolfram and tin are the only minerals in Burma that are worked under two distinct enactments—the Indian Mines Act and the Land Revenue Regulations. Wolfram mines, constituted under the Indian Mines Act of 1901, are worked under the scope of that act and are under the control in regard to supervision, inspection, etc., of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India. Those mines not constituted under the provisions of the Indian Mines Act are worked in virtue of licenses granted under the control of local authorities.

Prospecting Licenses for Many Areas.

The occurrence of wolfram in the districts of Tavoy and Mergui first commenced to attract attention 7 or 8 years ago, and many areas have since been taken up on prospecting licenses, but development hitherto has been retarded by the inadequate and imperfect communications. Rough cart tracks between the interior and the town existed, but roads were not known. Only two properties were accessible by any road along which wheeled traffic other than bullock carts could travel. Even in the town of Tavoy itself good roads fit for carriage or motor traffic were few.

The industry was also handicapped by lack of capital which was essential for the development of the properties on a scientific and commercial scale. Year after year saw more wasteful methods employed, and as might have been expected matters rapidly became worse until a crisis was reached soon after the outbreak of war.

The local government later took over the control of the mines and appointed the Deputy Commissioner of Tavoy, an officer with an experience of more than 1½ years in the industry, as special officer in charge of the mining administration of the Tavoy district. It was further decided that an officer of the Geological Survey of India should be associated with the Deputy Commissioner as expert technical adviser, to assist mine owners, many of whom had no mining engineers in their employ, with advice as to the best methods of developing their properties. The local government in addition took in hand the construction of roads, and the difficulties hitherto experienced in regard to communications were largely overcome. The government also undertook to import a considerable labor force to meet the requirements of these local producers, who are unable to import labor for themselves.

Statistics of Industry for Recent Years.

During 1915 there were 38 mines under the scope of the Indian mines act of 1901, of which one was worked by mechanical power, as compared with 42 mines in the preceding year, 34 in 1913, 28 in 1912, and 3 in 1911. During the year 3,187 persons, of whom 111 were adult females, were employed in the extraction of wolfram in and about the Tavoy mines. Of this number 1,741 persons, of whom one was a woman, were employed under ground, the remainder working above ground. The corresponding figures of the labor force employed in the Tavoy district in 1914 were 3,032 persons, including 122 women and 16 children, of whom 1,857 persons were employed under ground; and in 1913 the labor force numbered 2,368 persons, including 134 women and 41 children, of whom 1,382 persons were employed under ground.

Production of this valuable ore from mines and quarries which are below 20 feet deep—that is to say, from mines which do not come under the scope of the Indian mines act—now extends to four districts, the Tavoy and Mergui districts being the principal centers of production. Thaton, where the ore was discovered and worked for the first time in 1914, and the southern Shan States, where the ore is worked in conjunction with tin, are the other centers.

Production of Tin from Two Districts.

The production of tin from the mines in the Tavoy and Mergui districts worked under the provisions of the Indian mines act amounted to 279 hundredweight during 1915, as against 908 hundredweight in 1914, 1,733 in 1913, 1,265 in 1912, and 283 in 1911. In Tavoy there were three mines coming under the scope of the act, none of which were worked by mechanical power, compared with four mines, two of which were worked by mechanical power, in the preceding year. The production in the calendar years 1915, 1914, and 1913 amounted respectively to 253, 758, and 1,314 hundredweight. Tin was not worked under the act in Tavoy during 1911, but in the following year one mine was brought within the scope of the act and the output amounted to 30 hundredweight.

In Mergui tin was worked by itself during the year and not in conjunction with wolfram as last year. There was only one mine coming within the provisions of the act and the production therefrom amounted to 26 hundredweight. In 1911 the output from the single mine was 280 hundredweight, increasing to 1,235 in the following year. Since then the output has steadily decreased, amounting to 419 in 1913, and to only 140 in the following year. It will thus be seen that the production during the year under review has been the lowest on record.

A considerable quantity of tin also is produced from other mines in the Tavoy and Mergui districts which do not fall within the scope of the Indian Mines Act. The production from the tin mines of Maliwun in the Mergui district during the year ended December 31, 1915, shows an appreciable increase, exceeding the output of any year except 1912, and amounting to 127 tons, 13 hundredweight, 1 quarter, 26 pounds, as compared with 98 tons, 2 hundredweight, 3 quarters, 13 pounds in the preceding year; 116 tons, 15 hundredweight, 3 quarters, 20 pounds in 1913; 137 tons, 16 hundredweight in 1912; and 88 tons, 4 hundredweight, 1 quarter, 6 pounds in 1911.

[An article on mineral production in India was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 25, 1916. Tungsten ore in Burma was discussed in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for Sept. 27, 1913.]

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Carbon paper	23363	Pictures, colored	23362
Cash boxes	23363	Pottery	23360
Cotton piece goods	23364	Shipbuilding materials	23359
Drapery materials	23364	Shirts, men's	23363
Hardware	23360	Slates	23363
Hosiery	23363	Slate pencils	23363
Kitchen utensils	23360	Soap	23363
Leather, imitation	23361	Stationery	23363
Machinery, beet-sugar making	23361	Stiffening materials	23365
Overcoats, men's	23363	Tooth powder	23363
Perfumery	23366	Tubes, brass and copper	23359
Photographic supplies	23358		

23357.*—A company in Spain is in the market for complete equipment for a beet-sugar factory. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Correspondence in Spanish or French. Reference.

23358.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to secure an agency for the sale of photographic dry plates, printing paper, and apparatus. Correspondence in French. References.

23359.*—A company in Norway desires to purchase shipbuilding materials, such as plates, angles, tees, boiler materials, anchors, chains, wire, also brass and copper tubes. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23360.†—A man in Algeria would like to represent American manufacturers and exporters of pottery, hardware, kitchen utensils, etc. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Algerian port. Correspondence in French.

23361.*—A company in China is in the market for glazed imitation leather, suitable for seat cushions in jinrikishas. A sample of the quality of goods desired may be seen at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 82512.) These goods are at present imported in 12-yard pieces, 55 inches in width, at a cost of approximately \$12.75 per piece. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Payment will be made by sight draft against bill of lading. Correspondence in English. Reference.

23362.*—A firm in Spain wishes to purchase colored chromos for pasting on fancy boxes. Samples of the kind of pictures required may be inspected at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 82600). Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid on receipt of merchandise. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23363.‡—An importing firm in India would like to communicate with American manufacturers and exporters of stationery, hosiery, carbon paper, cash boxes, men's overcoats and shirts, slates, slate pencils, soap and tooth powder. Samples, prices, etc., are desired.

23364.‡—A company in Cyprus desires to be placed in communication with American exporters of drapery materials, and cotton prints, calicos, flannelles, etc.

23365.*—A wholesale dealer in Switzerland is in the market for stiffening materials for the millinery trade. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23366.*—A man in Spain wishes to purchase, or represent American manufacturers of, perfumery. Quotations should be made c. i. f. Spanish port. The goods should be packed in zinc-lined wooden cases. Correspondence may be in English. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 304 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 28 1916

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REMOVAL OF BRITISH PROHIBITION ON COTTON HOSIERY.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 23.]

A proclamation issued to-day cancels altogether the import prohibition on cotton hosiery and prohibits from December 22 the importation of automatic machines for the retail sale of any articles, military rifles and carbines, miniature and cadet rifles and carbines, revolvers, and pistols.

RESTRICTIONS ON GOODS FOR NETHERLANDS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Dec. 23.]

A proclamation issued to-day requires that all articles exported to Holland be consigned to the Dutch Government, diplomatic or consular officers, with the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Netherlands Overseas Trust, except the following: Printed matter, returned empties, worn clothing and personal effects, live animals not used for food, sanitary fixtures, pottery and common earthenware, books, dolls, toys, wooden clock cases, slate and slate pencils, postage stamp and postcard albums. The proclamation is apparently intended to permit the free shipment of the articles here mentioned.

FRENCH IMPORT PROHIBITION ON ALCOHOL.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Paris, Dec. 23.]

A decree of December 22, published today, prohibits the importation into France and Algeria of alcohol, namely, brandies and other alcohol and liqueurs of foreign origin or shipment. The prohibition is not applicable to other alcohol imported for Government account, to shipments proved to have been shipped direct to France or Algeria before publication of the decree. Liqueurs declared for warehousing before to-day, to other alcohol imported by manufacturers of liquor wines, of vinegar, chemical and pharmaceutical products, varnish or perfumery, or by manufacturers' syndicates. It is also not applicable to alcohol imported for other purposes and subsequently to be reexported, these alcohols being subjected to duties and conditions of former decrees. (See COMMERCE REPORTS for June 30 and July 17, 1916.)

DANISH JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

[Vice Consul Axel Permin, Copenhagen, Nov. 29.]

According to recently published statistics there were in Denmark in 1916, 4,146 joint-stock companies with a paid-up capital of 1,061,000,000 crowns (\$284,348,000). In 1902 there were 971 such companies, capital 509,000,000 crowns (\$136,412,000); and in 1914, 3,627 companies, with 916,000,000 crowns (\$245,488,000) of capital. The total capital is thus shown to have doubled in the course of 14 years.

More than half of the total number of companies are small, the subscribed capital of some 2,300 stock companies being less than 25,000 crowns (\$6,700) each; 2,253 of the companies, with a total capital of 793,000,000 crowns (\$212,524,000), are located in Copenhagen. Of the total number of companies 175 are banks, 120 steamship companies, 1,457 industrial concerns, and 1,676 commercial concerns.

The average dividends during the years 1912, 1914, and 1916 show a considerable increase. For banks the average for the three years named was 6.53, 7.15, and 8.65 per cent, respectively; for insurance companies, 10.33, 10.54, and 14.32 per cent; for steamship companies, 4.62, 9.22, and 31.04 per cent. Dividends paid by commercial concerns rose from 7.58 to 29.33 per cent, and by industrial concerns from 8.48 to 11.74 per cent.

NEW HISPANO-AMERICAN REVIEW.

[Consul Ely E. Palmer, Madrid, Spain, Nov. 17.]

The first number of a new Spanish monthly review has just been published in Madrid. This review is entitled *La Union Hispano-Americana*, and is published under the auspices of the Union Ibero-Americana and the Centro de Cultura Hispanoamericana, organizations that have for their principal object the promotion of friendly relations between Spain and America.

This number carries numerous advertisements, many of which have reference to American manufactures. The director hopes to obtain additional advertisements from manufacturing and commercial organizations and from banking institutions in the United States, the value of such advertising being due to the circulation of the review in both the Spanish peninsula and Latin America.

[A copy of *La Union Hispano-Americana* may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 83091.]

VANILLA CROP PROSPECTS IN GUADELOUPE.

[Consul Henry T. Wilcox, Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Dec. 9.]

Predictions of an unsatisfactory harvest of vanilla made earlier in the season and based on the exhausted condition of the trees and the damage done by strong winds in August seem to have been correct, for now that picking is about to commence the opinion of experienced dealers and planters is that the coming crop will not exceed 70 per cent of that of last year. According to figures furnished by the customs authorities the vanilla harvested during the winter of 1915-16 amounted to 63,416 pounds, 57,129 pounds of which were shipped to the United States.

Two or three new buyers having entered the field it is probable that the increased competition combined with the shortness of the crop will result in prices very advantageous to the planter being offered.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, at Washington, during the week ended December 23:

Report on Cooperation in American Export Trade (Federal Trade Commission).—Part 1, Summary and Report: Deals with the character, importance, and general conditions of our international trade; describes the chief commercial organizations, associations, and combinations in foreign countries; and points out the advantages to be derived by American exporters following the recommendations outlined by the commission. Part 2, Exhibits: Consists of special reports from United States consuls giving valuable data on every phase of prevailing customs of foreign combinations and other matters affecting the foreign trade of the United States. Price, the set, \$1.15.

The Story of the Census, 1790-1916 (Census Bureau).—Brief chronological history of the Census Bureau and its development into the greatest statistical office in the world. Price, 10 cents.

Constitution and Microstructure of Porcelain (Standards Bureau Technologic Paper 80).—Gives results of the burning of commercial porcelain and includes references to other literature on this subject. Price, 25 cents.

Some Technical Methods of Testing Miscellaneous Supplies (Standards Bureau).—Reprinted from Chemistry Bulletin 109, with notes and corrections. The supplies mentioned include paints and paint materials, inks, lubricating oils, soaps, etc., and the methods of testing selected are those which have been found especially satisfactory. Price, 15 cents.

Commercial Travelers in Latin America (Tariff Series 35).—Deals principally with the documents which the commercial traveler should take with him, customs treatment of his samples, duties levied on advertising matter, and other information of a miscellaneous nature. Price, 10 cents.

Pulp and Paper and Other Products from Waste Resinous Woods (Chemistry Bureau Bulletin 159).—Gives results of experimental work which opens up a promising line of development in the making of pulp, paper, turpentine, rosin oil, and methyl alcohol. Price, 5 cents.

Methods of Testing Natural Gas for Gasoline Content (Mines Bureau Technical Paper No. 87).—Specific-gravity and solubility tests of natural gas to determine its value for the extraction of gasoline. Price, 5 cents.

AMERICAN PURCHASES OF CASSIA FROM HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Nov. 2.]

Exports of cassia in various forms from Hongkong to the United States continue on an unprecedented scale. The declared exports of cassia, broken, selected, and similar grades at this consulate general for the first nine months of this year were valued at \$365,520 gold, as compared with \$67,817 in the same period of 1915 and \$91,315 in 1914; and exports of cassia oil were valued at \$88,312, as compared with \$37,550 in the first nine months of last year and \$26,626 in 1914. Exports of the spice from Hongkong to the United States for the current year's period were valued at more than the total shipments in any previous year in the history of the trade, and at more than twice the total annual exports of the spice to the United States in any one of the previous four years. There was a large increase in the shipments of the spice to other parts of the world; exports to all countries, according to the best commercial information available, amounted to a total of 103,988 cases, as compared with 65,367 cases in the first nine months of last year.

The apparently comparatively low stocks in the United States and the fear that freights and prices would rise have led to the unusual imports in this line. Low stocks in other parts of the world have accounted for much of the demand. Shipments to India have been unusually large.

CANNED AND BOTTLED GOODS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

[From American consulate at Madras, India, Oct. 27.]

The total imports of canned and bottled provisions into all ports of the Madras Presidency were 6,561 hundredweight valued at \$111,345 in the fiscal year 1913-14, 4,431 hundredweight valued at \$79,840 in 1914-15, and 3,281 hundredweight valued at \$70,990 in 1915-16 (hundredweight=112 pounds). The falling off in the past two years undoubtedly has been due to difficulty in obtaining supplies on account of freight conditions. The percentage of imports from countries other than the British Empire was relatively small, and next to the United Kingdom the imports from the United States are slightly in excess of those from other countries.

In the three years specified the imports of canned and bottled provisions from the United States were: In 1913-14—Atlantic coast, 249 hundredweight valued at \$3,981; Pacific coast, 209 hundredweight valued at \$2,685; in 1914-15—Atlantic coast, 185 hundredweight valued at \$2,617; Pacific coast, 104 hundredweight valued at \$1,362; in 1915-16—Atlantic coast, 68 hundredweight valued at \$1,195; Pacific coast, 306 hundredweight valued at \$3,967.

Imports of Jams and Jellies for Three Years.

The term "canned and bottled provisions" as used in these statistics is exclusive of canned butter, condensed milk, cheese, cocoa and chocolate, farinaceous and patent goods, jams and jellies, pickles, sauces, and condiments, all of which are separately listed in customs statistics. Imports of jams and jellies for three years have been:

Jams and jellies.	Quantities.			Values.		
	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
British Empire:	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>			
United Kingdom.....	281,204	201,218	243,520	\$30,877	\$23,003	\$31,086
Ceylon.....	2,040	2,131	2,830	244	257	322
Victoria.....	5,576	2,921	5,581	561	305	596
Other countries.....	577	782	1,637	81	124	151
Foreign countries.....	1,637	18	.....	340	3	.....
	291,234	207,070	253,568	32,103	23,692	32,165

The market will undoubtedly develop greatly as India increases in wealth and the purchasing power of the masses of the people grows greater. A leading European department store handling canned goods has branches throughout South India and is a large distributor of European groceries. There are also several important wholesale European commission agents handling groceries on a large scale and selling in turn to the bazaars through native brokers. In addition a substantial number of native commission firms imports groceries and a certain amount of business is carried on by them with native customers.

Shipping Lines and Tariff Charges.

Merchandise is usually shipped to this country by the American & Indian Line, the agents of which at New York are Messrs. Norton, Lilly & Co., Produce Exchange Building, or else by steamships of which Messrs. Funch, Edye & Co. are agents. The vessels usually touch first at Colombo, Ceylon, then at Madras, and afterwards at Calcutta, bringing cargo for all three ports. The customs-tariff

duty on all sorts of fruits—fresh, dried, salted, or preserved—is 7½ per cent ad valorem, but in some cases official valuations have been fixed, making the duty in effect specific.

[A list of dealers in canned and bottled provisions in Madras, India, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82705.]

NOVEMBER EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, OILS, COTTON, ETC.

The usual monthly bulletin showing exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat, and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States, has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. It shows exports as follows:

Items.	November—		11 months ending November—	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs.....dollars	45,838,549	30,492,539	404,260,496	477,423,790
Cottonseed oil.....pounds	12,574,287	20,357,876	171,634,734	323,133,622
Cattle, hogs, and sheep.....dollars	1,420,146	1,521,965	17,496,387	22,906,064
Meat, and dairy products.....do	89,064	57,952	864,264	2,633,401
Cotton.....bales	25,513,770	18,210,666	245,673,268	228,008,558
Mineral oils.....pounds	739,889	524,346	6,267,151	7,600,626
Cotton.....pounds	389,611,527	274,221,749	3,246,620,965	4,071,078,211
Mineral oils.....dollars	72,012,616	31,934,015	467,496,965	381,909,919
Mineral oils.....gallons	203,916,625	186,817,899	2,368,525,917	2,125,048,609
Mineral oils.....dollars	14,838,429	12,480,736	184,731,950	129,045,463
Total.....do	159,721,594	94,677,866	1,320,522,330	1,239,927,195
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn.....bushels	2,221,033	1,483,974	47,075,068	42,804,039
.....dollars	2,322,124	1,018,755	40,791,799	34,588,375
Oats.....bushels	6,274,282	7,380,446	93,527,735	97,779,256
.....dollars	3,753,175	3,208,107	48,341,119	56,067,728
Wheat.....bushels	14,258,038	13,499,048	140,048,709	192,713,870
.....dollars	27,297,222	15,633,309	199,745,773	296,595,823
Flour.....barrels	1,035,131	1,254,293	13,083,352	13,685,110
.....dollars	7,977,979	6,780,550	76,695,412	85,204,168
Beef, canned.....pounds	4,069,847	5,024,359	50,592,892	68,961,820
.....dollars	906,154	629,004	11,200,312	10,605,634
Beef, fresh.....pounds	14,480,397	16,537,886	169,408,447	234,700,660
.....dollars	1,711,223	2,143,681	20,872,338	30,216,878
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds	5,886,577	2,510,364	30,406,296	40,145,002
.....dollars	604,803	247,921	3,265,940	4,323,025
Oleo oil.....pounds	6,381,311	11,696,424	79,313,913	98,879,892
.....dollars	1,030,389	1,478,235	10,775,453	11,836,628
Bacon.....pounds	49,118,414	45,373,535	513,088,922	465,825,801
.....dollars	7,672,229	5,934,598	74,708,831	61,618,541
Hams and shoulders.....pounds	23,952,762	15,192,348	258,762,787	242,243,083
.....dollars	4,280,109	2,160,187	40,588,278	33,721,205
Lard.....pounds	31,152,090	30,497,489	378,212,569	403,964,219
.....dollars	4,894,978	3,152,257	40,929,038	43,243,965
Neutral lard.....pounds	1,142,633	5,144,963	25,510,317	31,251,982
.....dollars	194,932	536,876	3,367,402	3,502,019
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds	7,815,072	9,326,965	97,064,324	65,474,947
.....dollars	1,139,907	1,029,759	11,708,748	6,924,920
Lard compounds.....pounds	3,814,643	3,658,512	41,660,696	57,239,547
.....dollars	550,729	338,938	4,888,505	4,929,696
Crude oil.....gallons	14,201,845	13,495,761	156,512,708	143,998,894
.....dollars	393,241	386,108	6,403,390	3,849,695
Illuminating oil.....gallons	56,284,812	55,483,510	773,427,662	769,960,412
.....dollars	3,541,154	3,481,141	51,175,104	45,867,075
Lubricating oil.....gallons	18,517,169	18,668,877	242,587,921	219,613,268
.....dollars	3,263,804	2,713,051	39,634,621	29,317,108
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons	22,756,498	26,836,692	326,155,530	252,009,565
.....dollars	4,929,510	3,895,650	63,163,860	29,957,823
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....gallons	92,156,301	72,333,059	869,812,096	739,446,470
.....dollars	2,710,720	2,004,786	24,354,755	20,053,862

LIGHTHOUSE TENDER "CEDAR" LAUNCHED.

The single-screw, steel, steam-propelled lighthouse tender *Cedar*, in progress of construction for the United States Lighthouse Service at the California Shipbuilding Co., Long Beach, Cal., was successfully launched on December 27, 1916. This vessel, when completed, will be assigned to duty in Alaska.

The hull is of steel and has a length of 200 feet 8 inches over all, a molded beam of 36 feet, and a depth of hold of 18 feet 6 inches. Its displacement at 13 feet draft in salt water is approximately 1,750 tons.

The construction is of the inner-bottom design for the stowage of fresh water, with forward and after trimming tanks; the fuel-oil tanks are of structural design integral with the hull, and the hold is divided into various compartments by steel transverse and longitudinal oil and water tight bulkheads.

The steam-generating plant consists of two Scotch type boilers, designed for a working pressure of 190 pounds per square inch, using oil for fuel. The 1,300-horsepower propelling engine is of the vertical, inverted, direct-acting, open-front, surface-condensing, triple-expansion type, with cylinders 20 inches, 32½ inches, and 55 inches in diameter, having a common stroke of 39 inches. The auxiliary machinery includes all the necessary pumps, a distilling and evaporating plant, etc. The electric plant consists of two turbine-driven generators of 10-kilowatt and 15-kilowatt capacity.

Hoisting Arrangements—Quarters for Crew.

The vessel is fitted with a steam windlass and capstan, a hoisting engine, a mainmast and foremast of steel, the latter rigged as a derrick, with boom, etc., having a lifting capacity of 15 tons.

The design provides ample space for quartering the entire crew, as well as additional spare rooms for the transportation of lighthouse keepers, district officers, foremen, etc.

Special attention has been given to the comfort of the entire personnel with respect to ventilation and other sanitary conditions throughout. Provision has been made also for a radio equipment of ample capacity to meet all conditions of service to which this vessel will be subjected.

RECORD CUSTOMS RECEIPTS FOR NORWAY.

[Consul General E. Baldeman Dennison, Christiania, Dec. 6.]

The Norwegian customs receipts continue to establish new high records with each succeeding month. The official figures just published show that for November these amounted to \$1,176,252, as compared with \$858,404 for the corresponding month of 1915. The figures for the Christiania district alone were \$727,000, an increase of \$343,000. For the 12 months ended November 30, 1916, the total receipts for all of Norway were \$17,759,020, as compared with \$15,356,000 for the previous 12 months. The increased revenues of late have been largely due to greater imports by rail. Goods coming into the country over its railways have more than doubled in value due to the fact that imports from Germany, which formerly came by sea, are now sent overland from that country.

RENEWAL WORK ON GERMAN RAILWAYS.

[Consul General Leo A. Bergholz, Dresden, Saxony, Nov. 7.]

It is believed that the rolling stock, roadbeds, rails, sleepers, and ballast of the 38,516 miles of railroad in Germany will be practically renewed. This will furnish iron foundries, manufacturers of railway material, and stone quarries with contracts for several years and provide thousands of skilled mechanics and laborers with employment. It is thought that during such a thorough overhauling of the railways the practicability of substituting electricity for steam as a motive power will be seriously considered, especially as there are already several electric railways on branch lines.

According to the latest published statistics, of the 38,516 miles of railway in 1912 in Germany, 35,608 miles were State railroads and 2,908 privately owned.

Government Roads in the Various States.

The Government roads are divided among the separate States as follows: Prussian-Hessian State railways, 23,835 miles; Bavarian State railways, 4,948; Saxon State railways, 2,041; Wurttemberg State railways, 1,267; Baden State railways, 1,086; Mecklenburg State railways, 682; Oldenburg State railways, 403; Royal Prussian military railways, 44; Imperial railways in Alsace-Lorraine, 1,302.

It is doubtful if American manufacturers of railway materials will be able to benefit by this reconstruction, as Germany has not been an importer of such supplies, but on the contrary a large exporter. In 1913 Germany exported 500,835 tons of railroad and street-car rails valued at \$14,440,700; 101,728 tons of iron sleepers valued at \$2,922,500; 32,565 tons of railway joints and bedplates valued at \$1,057,250, and other railroad material to the amount of 113,778 tons and the value of \$7,657,000. Imports of all articles of the classes mentioned amounted to 1,573 tons of the value of \$78,500.

COTTON SHIPMENTS.

According to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exports of cotton during the week ending December 23, 1916, at the 12 principal customs districts of the United States were as follows:

Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.	Districts.	Bales.
Georgia.....	8,946	Philadelphia.....		San Francisco.....	13,553
Massachusetts.....	3,052	South Carolina.....		Washington.....	12,080
Maryland.....	1,355	Virginia.....	3,210		
New York.....	23,781	Galveston.....	83,313	Total.....	168,403
North Carolina.....		New Orleans.....	19,113		

The exports of 168,403 bales of cotton during the past week make the total since August 1, 1916, approximately 3,064,323 bales. Exports of cotton for the corresponding periods of the preceding year were, respectively, 121,192 bales for the week, and 2,247,801 bales in the cotton year.

OUTPUT OF TIN MINES IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

[Vice Consul P. R. Josselyn, Canton, Oct. 30.]

The principal tin mines in southern China are in the Kotchiu district, Province of Yunnan. The annual output of that section is between 6,000 and 7,000 tons of tin, removed entirely by native methods. The proportion of tin in surface ore is from one-thousandths to four-thousandths. This comprises about three-tenths of the whole Kotchiu output, and because of the poor grade it requires a large supply of water for washing. The rainy season rarely lasts more than three months, and for lack of artificial means of conserving the water supply surface ore can be worked with a profit only four or five months in the year.

The native process of washing this low-grade ore is somewhat similar to the modern hydraulic method. Trenches are dug before the time for the big rains. The average ditch is from one-third of a mile to a mile in length, with sufficient slope to cause a gentle pressure. As a result of the first washing the ore represents 5 to 40 per cent tin. The shaft ore runs from 2 to 20 per cent tin. Since this ore requires much less water, it furnishes a branch of the industry which may be carried on for six months in the year.

Plant Has Been in Operation for Five Years.

The Yunnan Tin Trading Co. conducts a modern ore-dressing plant and smelting works at Kotchiu. The smelting works cast the ingot in the iron mold, analyze, and sell according to purity, but they also conform to the peculiar Chinese practice of casting in sand molds. The ingot cast in the sand mold is not sold upon analysis, but the surface indications of the ingot form the basis upon which the purchase is made. The works of the Yunnan Tin Trading Co. have been in operation for about five years. The plant employs about 100 men, with a graduate of an American university as engineer-in-chief.

The bulk of the tin for export from this source is shipped at Kotchiu, through the port of Mengtsz, to Hongkong, whence it is reexported to the United States and Europe. There are no exports of tin direct from Canton to the United States.

[An article on the tin production of Yunnan Province was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 26, 1916. The mineral wealth of China was described in detail in the issue of Jan. 7, 1916.]

ECUADORIAN BUDGET FOR 1917.

[Vice Consul James H. Roth, Guayaquill, Nov. 15.]

The budget of Ecuador for 1917, as passed by Congress, estimates the total receipts at 16,122,450 sucres (\$7,851,633 U. S. gold), with total expenses of 16,106,873 sucres (\$7,844,047), leaving 15,577 sucres (\$7,586) for whatever other expenses may arise. The items that go to make up these totals, expressed in American currency, are: Receipts—Import duties and surcharges, \$2,984,519; export duties and surcharges, \$1,665,833; internal revenue, \$3,201,281; total, \$7,851,633. Expenditures—Executive and Legislative, \$108,528; Ministry of the Interior, \$787,771; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Justice, \$367,171; Ministry of Public Instruction, \$1,244,613; Ministry of War and Marine, \$1,816,449; Ministry of Finance, \$659,664; payments on public debt, \$1,499,148; sanitation work, \$782,317; railroad construction work, \$578,386; total, \$7,844,047.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expira- tion of venue.	Address.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Feb. 10	2418 Seventh Street, Meridian, Miss.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Deichman, Carl F.....	Santos, Brazil.....	Jan. 1	Do.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Gamon, John A.....	Corinto, Nicaragua....	Dec. 31	C/o District Office, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 504 Federal Building, Chicago, Ill.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Jan. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 24	48 Savage Street, Charleston, S. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mandota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Nether-lands.	...do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, A m h e r s t County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.
Weddell, Alexander W.....	Athens, Greece.....	Dec. 31	C/o Westmoreland Club, Richmond, Va.

TO INVESTIGATE SOUTH AMERICAN COAL MARKETS.

Special Agent Grosvenor M. Jones, who has written several important reports on shipping problems for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, will undertake at once for this Bureau an investigation of South American markets for coal. The field that he is to study is considered the logical one for the development of the foreign coal trade of the United States, and it is believed that its extension there will be an important factor in building an American merchant marine.

British economists have stated that the availability of Welsh coal for return cargoes has contributed to the success of England's merchant shipping. It is hoped that similar return cargoes may be provided in our trade with South America.

Latin America is a promising market for coal, because it has very limited supplies of its own. Chile, Peru, and Bolivia in particular need fuel and have an abundance of minerals to ship in return. Nitrates and iron, copper, and tin ore can be brought to this country more cheaply if full cargoes of coal can be taken back on the return voyage.

Mr. Jones has been engaged for some time on preliminary work and will start for South America about the middle of January.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

HONGKONG-AMERICAN TRADE INCREASES.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 18.]

While it is probable that the total import and export trade of Hongkong for the current year will be the smallest in many years, the trade between the colony and the United States will constitute a record increase, at least so far as Hongkong exports to the United States are concerned. The exports invoiced from Hongkong for the United States for the first nine months of 1916 increased by \$2,534,559 as compared with the same period in 1915. The gains covered a large number of articles, but the chief increases were in rice, tin, and various special Chinese products that come mostly from districts not affected by recent troubles in South China.

Trade Difficulties.

As to Hongkong trade in general it is remarkable that in view of the obstacles existing during most of the year that trade has been so good. It was not only affected by the war but also by disturbances and restricted credits in South China.

In a general way high exchange value of silver tended or should have tended to stimulate imports, but with the impossibility of distributing goods in the interior and because of a lack of money to buy goods at any price the effect of high exchange was minimized. On the other hand this same high exchange tended to restrict exports and the continued disturbances prevented the usual production of nearly all lines of Chinese produce. For example, for several months it was impossible to send raw silk into Canton from producing centers; the matting makers of Lin-tan and vicinity were prevented from gathering their straw and continuing their work, and on the other hand shipments of staple goods like flour and kerosene were not safe except under the convoy of Government forces. For five months out of nine during the year to date all ordinary trade communication in most parts of South China has been impossible. What trade has existed has been for countries or districts other than in China.

Imports from the United States.

On the whole the import trade from the United States suffered less than appears in the usual figures. The chief imports from the United States in normal times are kerosene and flour. There have been practically no imports of flour during the past three months, while the high course of prices in the United States and high freight rates held the imports for the first six months down to less than half the average and the trade on the whole is but a fraction of its normal volume. Imports of kerosene have been similarly reduced. The impossibility of distributing the product in the interior has made trade impossible for several months, although the demand for oil at enhanced prices has been strong. The reduction in imports has been fully one-third and actual distribution has been less in proportion.

Imports from the United States, however, have continued to include many lines of manufactures not received in the South China field from that source previous to the war. All lines of iron and steel manufactures, foodstuffs, and miscellaneous manufactured goods have been in greatly increased volume, and as soon as normal conditions can be established in South China there will be a largely increased trade from the United States in all such goods.

Imports of cotton piece goods in general have been below normal, and distribution of goods imported has been difficult if not impos-

sible and stocks have been increasing. Imports of piece goods from the United States, while still not very important in this field, have more than doubled, and there has been a special increase in all kinds of clothing accessories from the United States—hosiery, underwear, haberdashery, collars and cuffs, and similar goods.

Increased Cost of Imported Articles.

The high course of prices for cotton in the United States promises to restrict imports of cotton fabrics of all sorts indefinitely. The cost of foreign-made cotton goods at present is getting close to the point where the Chinese can not and will not buy. Because of similar conditions in the metal lines the demand for all lines of such goods from up country has been less than anticipated and large stocks of nails, bars, sheets, and tin plate accumulated during the early part of the year which are now gradually disappearing have interfered with the normal course of imports. Imports of glass and glassware have fallen off, but the trade of the United States in such goods has been above normal. Japan is manufacturing window glass for this and all other markets in the Far East with increasing success. The trade in leather manufactures in some lines has almost disappeared, but of the goods imported the United States is furnishing a constantly increasing proportion. American shoes dominate the market in imported lines and there is every indication that with reviving trade there will be a big demand for all such manufactures. While the drug and chemical trade is far below normal in volume the trade of the United States in such goods has increased. There is increasing importation of American toilet articles and supplies. In spite of depressed trade generally there has been an increase in the number of automobiles in Hongkong, practically the whole of the gain being in American cars. Imports of all sorts of machinery have been below normal, but the imports from the United States have been the chief feature of the trade.

In short, in nearly all lines of imports there has been greatly reduced business, but the United States continues to suffer less than any other trading country, except Japan. In a general way the trade of north Europe, especially of Norway and Denmark, has also increased materially, while that between Great Britain and other countries at war and the Far East has been carried on with difficulty, due largely to restrictions on British and continental exports.

The Export Trade—Tin, Silk, Matting, and Cassia.

The export trade reflects subnormal production of Chinese merchandise, low silver prices, due to high exchange value of silver, high freight rates, and other causes. The figures on exports maintained by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce show decreased shipments in nearly every principal line of trade.

Shipments of tin, one of the most important items from South China at present, decreased all around, the exports to Great Britain amounting to 22,373 slabs during the first nine months of 1916, as compared with 25,920 for the corresponding period in 1915; to the Continent of Europe, to only 4,800 slabs as compared with 17,843 in the same period of last year; and to the United States and Canada, to only 13,564 slabs, compared with 45,532 in 1915, making a total of 40,737 slabs as compared with 89,295 slabs in the first nine months of 1915. Shipments of waste silk to Great Britain decreased from 7,490 to 5,961 bales and to the United States and Canada from 6,841

to 2,475 bales, increasing from 962 to 7,760 bales to the Continent of Europe. Shipments of raw silk to the United States and Canada decreased from 12,670 bales for the first nine months of 1915 to 3,932 for the corresponding period of the current year. Mats and matting for Great Britain increased from 36,770 rolls for the 1915 period to 44,910 for 1916; to the Continent they decreased from 12,951 to 1,555 rolls; and to the United States and Canada decreased from 56,889 to 13,832 rolls, decreasing in the total trade from 106,610 to 60,297 rolls, directly reflecting the disturbances in the matting district of Kwangtung Province. There was a substantial increase in shipments of cassia, the exports to Great Britain amounting to 36,056 cases compared with 11,000 for the first nine months of 1915; to the Continent, 16,733 cases compared with 9,410; and to the United States and Canada, to 51,199 cases compared with 44,957 cases, the whole trade amounting to 103,988 cases as compared with 65,367 shipped in the same period last year.

Shipments of Essential Oils, Human Hair, Canes, Bristles, and Preserves.

There was an increase in shipments of essential oils, particularly to Europe. The exports were: To Great Britain, 2,030 cases for the first nine months of 1916, and 3,260 cases for the same period last year; to the Continent, 4,031 cases against 1,174; and to the United States and Canada, 3,845 cases against 4,889 last year; the total shipments so far this year being 9,906 cases as compared with 9,323 cases last year. Shipments of human hair to Great Britain increased from 1,407 to 1,992 cases, and to the Continent from 956 to 1,484 cases, and decreased to the United States from 1,073 to 727 cases, increasing for the total exports from 3,436 to 4,203 cases. Shipments of canes to Great Britain decreased from 16,066 to 4,986 bundles; to the Continent, from 2,682 to 365 bundles; and to the United States, from 966 to 898 bundles; a decrease on the whole from 19,660 to 6,249 bundles. Shipments of bristles to Great Britain decreased from 3,994 cases for the first nine months of 1915 to 2,043 cases for the corresponding period of 1916; to the Continent they increased from 450 to 790 cases; and to the United States decreased from 508 to 441 cases; the total exports decreasing from 4,952 to 3,274 cases. Exports of preserves to Great Britain decreased from 20,397 to 18,105 cases; to the Continent they increased from 403 to 500 cases; and to the United States and Canada showed a slight decrease from 1,588 to 1,543 cases; the total exports decreasing from 22,388 to 20,148 cases.

Declared Exports to the United States.

The total value of the exports from Hongkong to the United States increased from \$4,329,731 for the first nine months of 1915 to \$6,864,290 for the same period in 1916, according to invoices certified at the Hongkong consulate general. The American purchases of tin increased in value from \$901,823 to \$1,230,632, chemicals increased from \$76,101 to \$108,421, and antimony from \$47,406 to \$97,712. Rice increased from a value of \$1,679,408 to \$2,735,771, and exports of fruits and nuts almost doubled. The increase in cassia was especially notable. Exports of rattan furniture account for the increase in manufactures of wood. In some items the increased exports represent a making up of stocks of Chinese foods depleted through small shipments last year, but on the whole the trade reflects strong demand in the United States for nearly all lines of Chinese produce.

The declared exports for the United States in detail were as follows:

Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Jan.-Sept., 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Jan.-Sept., 1916.
Antimony.....	\$47,406	\$97,712	Paper, and manufactures of..	\$36,747	\$37,217
Antiquities.....	13,150	7,625	Sea-grass furniture.....	43,859	33,312
Breadstuffs: Rice.....	1,679,408	2,735,771	Seeds.....	6,357	8,511
Bristles.....	24,545	27,174	Silk, and manufactures of...	48,655	82,760
Chemicals.....	76,101	108,421	Spices: Cassia.....	67,817	365,520
Cotton, and manufactures of.	6,539	11,612	Spirits, wines.....	76,484	82,171
Earthen and china ware.....	39,193	45,474	Sugar.....	20,546	32,449
Edible substances.....	12,734	25,836	Tea.....	93,090	93,659
Explosives: Fireworks.....	14,941	33,196	Tin.....	901,823	1,230,632
Fish.....	19,094	103,039	Tobacco.....	26,730	64,848
Fruits and nuts.....	146,636	232,176	Vegetables.....	126,837	213,025
Ginger, preserved.....	19,345	38,058	Wood:		
Hair, and manufactures of.....	30,422	51,096	Unmanufactured.....	66,831	273,271
Hides.....	22,042	64,612	Manufactured.....	141,638	121,532
Leathers.....	48,265	40,519	All other articles.....	151,513	347,348
Meat and dairy products.....		31,867			
Oil:			Total.....	4,329,731	6,864,290
Peanut.....	63,579	51,201			
Aniseed.....	149,634	84,331			
Cassia.....	37,550	88,312			

Exports to the Philippines and Hawaii.

Exports to the Philippine Islands for the first nine months of 1916 were valued at \$3,613,804, as compared with \$3,974,323 for the same period last year. The decrease, however, is more than made up by the smaller shipments of rice, from a value of \$2,600,340 to \$1,753,735. There was an increase in shipments of meat and dairy products, eggs, fruits and nuts, peanut oil, vegetables, fish, and other food products. Perhaps the most significant increase is that in unmanufactured silk, from \$105,864 to \$185,048, the increase marking a revival of the Filipino native cloth trade. The exports invoiced for the Hawaiian Islands, chiefly for the use of Chinese residing there, show little change, being valued at a little over \$206,000.

The principal articles, with their value, invoiced for the Philippine Islands and Hawaii were as follows:

Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Jan.-Sept., 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1915.	Jan.-Sept., 1916.
TO PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.			TO HAWAII.		
Animals: Cattle.....	\$400	\$62,422	Breadstuffs: Rice.....	\$12,475	\$209
Breadstuffs: Rice.....	2,600,340	1,753,735	Chemicals.....	8,953	11,396
Cement.....	70,508	35,395	Cotton, and manufactures of.....	1,804	2,055
Chemicals.....	36,640	32,857	Earthen and china ware.....	3,378	3,307
Cotton, and manufactures of.....	176,771	221,953	Edible substances.....	2,790	1,738
Earthen and china ware.....	29,986	26,919	Eggs.....	6,171	6,316
Eggs.....	228,552	254,546	Explosives: Fireworks.....	2,038	2,627
Fish.....	45,039	56,681	Fish.....	24,555	25,001
Fruits and nuts.....	57,119	68,790	Fruits and nuts.....	16,222	15,270
Glass and glassware.....	9,006	13,801	Meat and dairy products.....	12,716	12,577
Matches.....	38,075	56,544	Metal.....	358	873
Meat and dairy products.....	86,342	177,945	Oil: Peanut.....	14,865	9,374
Metals, and manufactures of.....	9,659	13,648	Paper.....	2,774	3,670
Motion pictures.....	41,996	21,372	Seeds.....	2,230	2,790
Oil: Peanut.....	34,787	45,208	Silk, and manufactures of.....	2,604	11,380
Silk:			Spirits, wines.....	39,194	27,147
Unmanufactured.....	105,864	185,048	Straw, and manufactures of.....	3,477	3,144
Manufactured.....	65,374	34,980	Sugar.....	996	1,658
Straw, and manufactures of.....	10,406	7,461	Tea.....	14,759	19,890
Sugar.....	17,343	16,412	Tobacco.....	5,060	4,611
Tea.....	8,702	9,619	Vegetables.....	16,722	21,262
Tobacco.....	7,579	6,464	Wood, and manufactures of.....	3,999	3,729
Vegetables.....	79,199		All other articles.....	8,117	15,987
Wood, and manufactures of.....	29,385	127,614			
All other articles.....	185,251	359,499	Total.....	206,257	206,014
Total.....	3,974,323	3,613,804			

PARIS FIRE STATISTICS.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, France, Dec. 1.]

The prefect of police for the Paris district has recently published statistics showing the operations of the Paris fire brigade during 1915, from which the following facts have been extracted:

The total number of fires attended by the brigade was 1,414. In 1,143 cases the loss was less than 1,000 francs (\$193), while in the other 271 fires the total loss exceeded that sum.

In 1,209 cases the losses of furniture and other personal property were covered by insurance, and in 1,412 cases real property was insured.

The total losses are estimated at 18,236,918 francs (\$3,519,725), or about \$1.25 per head of the population of 2,888,100 persons. Included in this total was one fire that entailed a loss of 14,000,000 francs (\$2,702,000).

Of the 1,414 fires, 1,379 were being fought by the brigade 10 minutes after the alarm was given; 16 fires required up to 15 minutes for the brigade to arrive; and the remaining 19 fires required a longer period.

The total number of calls of the Paris fire brigade was 5,087, which may be subdivided as follows: Fires other than chimney fires, 1,414; chimney fires, 2,755; other services, 343; false alarms, 500; calls from suburban districts, 75.

Equipment, Water Supply, and Budget.

The Paris fire-fighting apparatus consists of 93 vehicles, all motor driven. The first-aid engine, of 20 horsepower, which in most cases suffices without the assistance of more powerful fire apparatus, carries 6 men, has a reservoir capacity of 400 liters (105.66 gallons), and is equipped with a centrifugal pump driven by the motor of the vehicle. It carries 300 meters (984 feet) of hose. The more powerful vehicles, used in cases of large fires, are of 45 to 60 horsepower and carry 15 men, 3 reels with 600 meters (1,968 feet) of large hose and 160 meters (525 feet) of small hose, 1 respiratory apparatus, 1 air compressor, 1 ventilator, and 1 set of life-saving apparatus. These vehicles are equipped with a centrifugal pump ejecting 2,000 liters (528.34) gallons per minute. The ladders used by the Paris fire brigade have a maximum height of 20 meters (65.6 feet).

The water supply is derived from street pipes, of which there are now 7,797, and when the system is completed water will be available every 100 meters (328 feet) in the Paris streets.

The total expenses of the brigade amount to 3,384,121 francs (\$653,135), toward which the insurance companies make a voluntary contribution of 200,000 francs (\$38,600), the balance being partly met by payments made for different services rendered in public and private establishments, 305,000 francs (\$58,865); State subsidy, 50,000 francs (\$9,650), and subsidy from the Department of the Seine, 20,000 francs (\$3,860). This leaves 2,809,121 francs (\$542,160) to be met by the city of Paris. The net cost of upkeep of the brigade to the city, therefore, amounts to less than 1 franc (\$0.19) per head of the population.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3919.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until January 2, 1917, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, crane chain, rivets, drills, tram nails, dies, chisels, cutters, saws, bed springs, water gauges, whistles, lamps, grease cups, electric hair drier, daubers, ignition cable, automobile tires, tender hose, paints, graphite, linseed oil, harness oil, ammonia, turpentine substitute, sulphur, paper, pencils, paper towels, paper fasteners, and tie plugs. (Circular 1107.)

Marine engine, No. 3920.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wilmington, N. C., until January 30, 1917, for the construction and delivery of a marine engine for the motor dredge tender *Manteo*. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Repair of lighthouse tender, No. 3921.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Charleston, S. C., for docking and repairing the lighthouse tender *Mangrove*. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Riprap stone, No. 3922.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Mississippi River Commission, United States Engineer Office, Customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until January 15, 1917, for about 25,000 tons of riprap stone. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Flour, No. 3923.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Quartermaster, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until December 28, 1916, for furnishing and delivering, on or before January 12, 1917, 40,180 pounds of flour. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 3924.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until January 11, 1917, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, galvanized steel, terneplate, spring steel, drill rods, pig iron, pig lead, pig tin, sheet brass, copper tubing, bolts, rivets, nails, taper pins, plate washers, cable thimbles, drills, bits, augers, dies, chisels, pipe cutters, bolt cutters, saw blades, steel clamps, foundry brushes, riddles, grindstones, clocks, detonators, pantsote, mattress ticking, mattress tufts, twine, thermometers, knife erasers, penholders, rubber bands, memorandum books, paper, rock salt, silica sand, silica wash, pitch, murexco, muralite, liquid filler, white zinc, copper paint, and Douglas-fir crosssties. (Circular 1109.)

Subsistence supplies, No. 3925.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Quartermaster, 308 Gumbel Building, Kansas City, Mo., until December 28, 1916, for furnishing and delivering on or before January 5, 1917, white and yellow corn meal, baking powder, beans, prunes, evaporated peaches, tea, pickles, salt, cinnamon, lard substitute, oleomargarine, sirup, apples, bacon, chocolate candy, edam cheese, crackers, ham, jam, lard, macaroni, raisins, spinach, taploca, canned spinach, and tobacco.

Sale of condemned ordnance stores, No. 3926.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill., until January 9, 1917, for the purchase of condemned ordnance stores and waste products, said material being not adapted to any of the manufactures at this arsenal. Catalogue giving quantities, etc., can be had on application to the commanding officer of the above-named arsenal.

Cypress lumber, No. 3927.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, New Orleans, La., for furnishing 74,092 feet board measure cypress lumber. Further information may be had on application to the above-named office.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Ceramic articles.....	23372	Machinery, rice mill.....	23370
Chemical products.....	23373	Mincers.....	23369
Clips, fountain pen.....	23369	Pencils.....	23369
Coffee mills.....	23369	Pens, fountain.....	23369
Corsets.....	23372	Piece goods.....	23373
Embroidery.....	23373	Razors, safety.....	23369
Household supplies.....	23369	Rubbers.....	23367
Lace.....	23373	Shoe lasts.....	23371
Machinery, cleaning.....	23370	Syringes, hypodermic.....	23374
Machinery, coffee.....	23370	Tacks, shoe.....	23371
Machinery, cotton gin.....	23368	Toilet articles.....	23372
Machinery, cottonseed oil.....	23368	Tools, agricultural.....	23373
Machinery, fiber decorticating.....	23368	Tractors.....	23373
Machinery, flour.....	23370		

23367.*—A merchant in Spain desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of rubber overshoes. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination. Cash will be paid upon receipt of merchandise. Correspondence in Spanish. References.

23368.*—An agricultural organization in Brazil would like to receive catalogues and price lists from American manufacturers of fiber-decorticating machinery, cottonseed-oil presses, and small cotton gins. Further particulars as to the size and quality of machinery desired, etc., may be obtained at the Bureau or its District Offices.

23369.†—Supplementing foreign-trade opportunity No. 23354, a firm in France wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of fountain pens, fountain-pen clips, coffee mills, safety razors, mincers, lead pencils, and household supplies. Cash will be paid against documents.

23370.*—An American consul in a French insular possession desires to receive catalogues and prices of rice mills and coffee hulling and polishing machinery, machinery for the manufacture of flour, fecula and tapioca from manioc roots, and machinery for cleaning, refining, and classifying flake graphite.

23371.*—A firm in Norway is in the market for shoe tacks and shoe lasts. A sample of the tacks required may be seen at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to file No. 82546.) Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in English. References.

23372.*—A company in Switzerland is desirous of purchasing ceramic articles, corsets, and toilet articles. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence in French or German. References.

23373.†—A firm in France wishes to purchase, and represent American manufacturers and exporters of, chemical products, tractors, agricultural tools, laces and embroideries, and cotton and silk materials. Quotations should be made c. i. f. French port. Cash will be paid. Correspondence in English. References.

23374.*—An Italian importer is in the market for 1,000 hypodermic syringes. A pamphlet in French, describing the kind of syringe desired, may be seen at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to file No. 82486.) Upon request the Italian firm will forward a sample of the syringe. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. destination or f. o. b. American port. Correspondence in Italian, French, or German. References.

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INCREASED CUSTOMS REVENUE AT CALLAO.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima, Peru, Dec. 1.]

The customs revenue at the port of Callao for November, 1916, amounted to \$527,729, of which \$331,220 was derived from imports and \$196,509 from exports. This large increase in the revenue from exports may be attributed principally to the large exportation and prevailing high price of copper. The exporters of copper, which are principally American companies, are now paying the Government an export tax of \$43.93 per ton on copper bars of 80 to 90 per cent pure. An additional tax is also paid on the silver and gold contained in the bars as shown by analysis.

CHILEAN INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION.

[Commercial Attaché V. L. Havens, Santiago, Nov. 15, supplementing report published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 29.]

Of all the striking exhibits of the industrial exposition recently held at Santiago the display of chemical and pharmaceutical products manufactured in the country is the most remarkable. The *Diario Ilustrado*, Santiago, for September 30, stated in part:

Chile now has 100 factories of more or less importance in this branch of industry. Formerly we imported nearly \$2,000,000 worth of chemical and pharmaceutical products; now we import less than half of this amount, as the country now supplies a large share of the local demands. Not only is this the case, but we are also showing quite satisfactory figures in the export field. On account of the fact that many of these products are labeled with North American and European trade-marks, people have not realized how great the growth of this industry has been in Chile.

The *Ultimas Noticias*, of Santiago, for October 3 refers to the *Laboratorio Chile*, which "produces 400 different products, a total greater than that of all the other laboratories combined. This institution has been in operation for over 20 years and since the opening of the war has experienced a great development. Recently installed machinery will enable this laboratory to export its products to other countries in South America. Because of the war the laboratories have been forced to buy their raw products in the country, and they have found Chile well provided with the necessary chemical products.

It seems inconceivable that before the war Chile was buying its iodine products from Germany in spite of the fact that Chile is the greatest producer of this product."

The *Mercurio*, of Santiago, for October 4 made special reference to the products of Haramboure y Hamel, particularly referring to their use of the by-products of gas works.

The Army Exhibit.

The same publication for November 3 has the following on the army exhibit:

The General Staff of the Army, the Aviation School, and the Telegraph and Railway Regiments have presented a distinctive exhibition in a special building prepared for the purpose. The General Staff has shown most completely the methods followed in making a topographical survey of the country, on which work is being done at present. Perhaps the most interesting exhibit is a monoplane, Bleriot type, constructed entirely in the country, with the exception of the motor. The propellers, which are made of local wood, have given excellent results and cost less than half of those imported.

The Railway and Telegraph Regiments exhibit collections of model military structures, engines, military railroad cars, and also run a model, on a quarter scale, of a military railway which goes all through the exposition grounds.

Government Printing Office—Railway Stock.

Another governmental activity—commercial printing—is discussed in the *Mercurio* for October 31 as follows:

One is surprised by the very complete exhibition of all classes of printing and binding work done in the Government office. All the blanks, forms, vouchers, penholders, blotter holders, and rubber-stamp handles are made in this office, as well as the railway tickets used throughout the country. This office was founded in 1897, employs 100 workmen, and is equipped with up-to-date machinery.

The *Diario Ilustrado*, Santiago, for October 1 says regarding Chilean railway rolling stock:

The "Maestranza Yungay" (Yungay Railway Shop) is now preparing 30 freight cars for the railways made of steel and Chilean lumber. During the past year one hundred and sixty 10-ton steel freight cars have been delivered by this shop. Locomotives are also repaired.

Another railway shop exhibits a finished passenger car made entirely in the country.

A representative of an American locomotive works, in commenting on the exhibition, stated that most of the railway work was of excellent quality, but that the element of cost had apparently not been taken into consideration; that is, certain parts of the machinery were finished in such a way that their cost was really prohibitive. These exhibits were probably especially prepared for the exposition.

Bank Safes and Vaults—Manufacture of Brooms.

The *Mercurio*, of Santiago, for October 27 refers as follows to the factory of Maximo Bash, of Santiago, the only manufacturer of safes and deposit vaults in the country:

This factory is a branch and employs the same name as one in London. There are other branches in Glasgow and Buenos Aires. The safes enjoy an excellent reputation in Chile and have successfully withstood fires and efforts to break them open with acids and explosives.

A small but important industry of broom manufacturing is mentioned in the same publication for October 27, as follows:

The manufacture of brooms was begun in 1850, due to the efforts of an American called Charles Lee. The industry has grown considerably, and at present

the factory can produce 2,500 dozens of brooms per month and is equipped with up-to-date machinery. This factory supplies all parts of the country, and has received several prizes in expositions for the excellence of its products.

Construction Material.

The country is rich in raw material, so the construction material branch of industry is fairly well developed. The *Diario Ilustrado*, Santiago, for October 3 states:

There are a great number of establishments for the preparation of plaster, manufacture of cement, stone cutting, marble cutting, etc. The recent demand for piping for the installation of sewerage systems in the country has created several factories for the manufacture of cement pipes. The chief cement factory is that of El Melon. The product of this factory enjoys an excellent reputation and is used throughout the country.

[A general catalogue of the exhibits at the Chilean Industrial Exposition, with the names and advertising literature of the exhibitors, and a list of the prizes that have been awarded, may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or co-operative offices. Refer to file No. 2122.]

RECENT TESTS BY BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

Among the tests conducted recently by the United States Bureau of Standards as aids to the development of industrial methods were series relating to the construction of concrete columns and the production of insulating material.

Three tests were made of a special commercial insulating material to determine its fire-resisting properties. The material submitted by the manufacturers was intended for use in a number of instances to replace wood. The test specimens were about 18 by 18 inches and 6 inches thick. They were placed in a furnace as a panel, one of the larger faces being exposed to the heat of the furnace and the other to the atmosphere. Upon being heated to 950° in 30 minutes and held at that temperature for four hours it was found that the temperature at a distance of 1½ inches from the heat-exposed surface was about 240° C. At a depth of 5½ inches from the heat-exposed surface 66° was the highest temperature recorded. One of the blocks after having been subjected to this heat for the period mentioned was quenched with water. The damage to the specimen that was quenched was found to be less than to an unquenched specimen. This is explained by the fact that the blocks contained considerable organic matter which tended to be disintegrated by the heat transmitted very slowly from the heated surface, even after the flame was removed from it.

First Columns of Kind to be Tested in This Country.

The series of tests of concrete columns was partly in the nature of an investigation and partly in the nature of routine testing. These are the first columns of their kind to be tested in this country. The unique feature is a hollow cast-iron core. This is surrounded by concrete, reinforced with both spiral and vertical reinforcing. Such a column may be made very cheaply. Not many results have yet been obtained, but the tests are still in progress. It would appear, however, that the load which these columns can sustain is considerably in excess of that which can be borne by the ordinary reinforced concrete column of an equivalent cross section.

SIAM'S PURCHASES OF JEWELRY AND PLATED WARE.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

The total value of the imports in Siam of jewelry made from gold, silver, and platinum, and plated ware declined from \$215,952 in the fiscal year 1914 to \$72,033 in 1915 and \$66,732 in 1916. The most apparent cause for the falling off in these imports seems to be the cessation of the supplies from certain countries, namely, Germany, which contributed \$125,797 worth in 1914, \$27,505 worth in 1915, and none in 1916; from Austria-Hungary, which furnished \$1,627 worth in 1914, \$546 worth in 1915, and none in 1916; and from Russia, which supplied \$8,487 worth in 1914 and none in 1915 and 1916. The only country that showed any marked increase during this period was Japan, whose sales of this class of goods advanced from \$722 worth in 1914 to \$1,872 in 1915 and \$7,408 in 1916, while the imports from United States during the respective years were \$95, \$51, and \$27.

A commercial traveler from the United States, representing a New York general export firm, recently called at this consulate to obtain the loan of a catalogue of jewelry and plated ware that he was asked to supply, but unfortunately American manufacturers had failed to supply this office with trade literature of this class.

Articles in Demand—Local Production.

The kind of jewelry at present in demand consists of chains, necklaces, pendants, belts, earrings, finger rings, bracelets, anklets, hairpins, buttons for jackets, etc.

In silver and plated ware there is a demand for a great variety of articles, namely, the boxes required for the betel-chewing set, boxes for cosmetics, water goblets, wash basins, spittoons, coffee and tea pots, trays, flower vases, cigarette cases, candelabras, etc.

The local crafts in gold and silver of the Siamese artist have almost entirely been replaced with "respose" work of the Chinese silver-smith, although the Siamese Government has lately been endeavoring to revive the art of producing "Niello" ware, for the making of which the Siamese Malay city of Ligor became famous from the twelfth century, the industry lasting until the middle of the eighteenth century. This ware is made of silver, and the ground is chased or hammered down so as to have the pattern stand out in low relief, and it is then inlaid with a black enamel of metallic sulphides, which brings the ground up to the level of the ornamentation, so that the outer surface of the article is smooth and the design appears in silver upon a black ground. The Niello ware is of the most exquisite workmanship and surpasses all other local ware made of silver in this country. In some beautiful specimens of this ware parts of the silver design have been gilded, producing artistic effects in gold and silver and black enamel. Specimens of Niello ware of great beauty are found in the Siamese Royal collections.

The import duty on all kinds of jewelry and plated ware is 3 per cent ad valorem, and these goods are handled by all the leading merchants and importers in Bangkok. Catalogues and other trade literature covering these lines of goods will be gladly received for distribution and file in the commercial reading room of the consulate.

INCREASED USE OF CUNAO OR CHINESE GAMBIER.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Nov. 8.]

There has been increased trade in cunao or Chinese gambier in South China during the past year and the volume of the trade in the product into Hongkong alone at present is running well toward 30,000 short tons annually. The product is one of great value and merits the attention of dye men in the United States. It has been used by the Chinese for many generations for dye and preservative purposes, and since the disappearance of aniline dyes from this market as a result of the war in Europe it is coming into still more general use. The dye is the product of crushing and soaking the root of a plant known by the Chinese as "cunao" and drawing off and concentrating the liquor therefrom.

There are two qualities of the product coming into this market for Canton and other ports, one of which is the product of Kwangsi and Yunnan Provinces, coming largely from Lungchow and Luk Po in Kwangsi, and from Mengtse and Yunnan-fu in Yunnan Province. It is obtained in large quantities and good quality from the hills bordering the Red River in Yunnan and Kwangsi Provinces. The other quality is the product of Indo-China and certain other parts of Yunnan Province. Usually the Indo-Chinese product is employed for the first dyeing of a cloth or for the coarser work in other lines, while the Chinese product is used for the second or finishing dye, because of the deep rich brown gloss it gives cloth.

Used Extensively for Dyeing Silk and Cotton—Price.

The dye is of a brown color, is highly astringent, works well with various mordants, and is used extensively by the Chinese for dyeing both silk and cotton, a certain class of silk dyed with it being one of the standard cloths of South China. The coarser quality is also the chief component part of a mixture applied to fishing nets, sails, and similar fabrics to prevent rot. The product in general seems to have all the merits of gambier and in general is much cheaper.

It is handled in China and in the export trade to near-by countries as a paste, and is said to lose its finer qualities if kept too long. Apparently, however, there is no reason why the product can not be further concentrated and, if properly packed, ought to keep indefinitely. In its moist condition as sold in the markets here it costs about 2 cents gold per pound, although at times recently the price has advanced to as much as 3 cents gold per pound. With more modern treatment of the product itself and with more scientific packing than is usually given it by the Chinese here, there seems no reason why it can not be successfully introduced in the United States.

New Electric Lines in Cuba.

Electric street-car service was inaugurated in Matanzas and Cardenas on December 17. The *Diario de la Marina* says that much enthusiasm greeted the opening of the new car service, and it is believed that the tramways will assist greatly in the development of these cities.

TRADE POSSIBILITIES IN COHUNE NUTS FROM HONDURAS.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Ceiba, Dec. 1.]

The cohune palm is very common in Honduras, many persons holding that it is met with more frequently than any other tree. To get the nuts in commercial quantities it would be necessary to organize the business of gathering them, as nothing has been done in that direction here. It is safe to say that once the business was organized an unlimited quantity of the nuts could be obtained. They have been shipped out of Belize, British Honduras, for years.

At least one citizen of Ceiba is now investigating the possibility of establishing an industry based on the cohune nut. Aside from the problem of obtaining a sufficient supply of nuts at a cost not prohibitive, there is a problem in the extraction of the kernel, which weighs about one-tenth as much as the entire nut. The shell is not only very thick, but very hard, and it is difficult to crack it without crushing the kernel.

Shell Used for Various Purposes.

This shell has been used for various purposes, such as button making, but on account of the very closely packed fibers and the presence of some oil in it the shell will not take dyes, which limits its usefulness for many purposes. It would probably make good pipes, and for lathe work it should be very well adapted, as it is susceptible of a high polish, with a color like very old mahogany. The shell contains considerable potash, and it has a fuel value comparable to hard coal.

The kernels, it is reported, bring practically the same price in the market as copra.

[The name of the Ceiba resident who is investigating the cohune industry and the name and address also of a citizen of the United States who has made similar investigations may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82741.]

EXTENDING THE INFLUENCE OF JAPANESE BANKS.

[Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, acting as vice consul, Yokohama, Nov. 4.]

The position of Japan since the outbreak of the European war as a lender instead of a borrower of money is discussed by the Japan Advertiser, which cites the growing tendency among Japanese banks to invest their surplus capital either in Europe and the United States or in China. Last spring the Taiwan Bank and the Mitsubishi Bank established branches in London. Recently the Industrial Bank dispatched its vice president to Europe and the United States with a view to bettering monetary circulation. The Bank of Chosen, continues the Advertiser, "not only is planning to send a representative to study the conditions of the European and American money markets, but also is trying to open up bill transactions with China in order to pave a way for the entrance of Japanese capital into that country. The latter move has also been taken by the Mitsui and the Sumitomo Banks in preparation for the founding of a branch in Shanghai. The Mitsubishi and the First Bank are making investigations toward remunerative investments in foreign lands."

[Previous articles on the foreign activities of the Japanese banks were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 15 and Dec. 21, 1916.]

LIGHTING FIXTURES IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

[Consul James B. Young, Flume, Hungary, Nov. 2.]

The average annual trade in chandeliers and electric and gas lighting fixtures in Fiume is estimated by local merchants at about 5,000 crowns (\$1,013), while that of Agram (Zagreb), Croatia, is estimated at 10,000 crowns (\$2,026). Most of the chandeliers and fixtures in this district come from Budapest and Vienna, the greater proportion originating in Germany. Some of those sold here are of Hungarian make and others are manufactured in Austria.

Suggest That Products be Shipped in Parts.

The dealers state it is possible that more business might be transacted here under normal conditions by American chandelier and fixture exporters if the chandeliers and fixtures were sold and exported in parts instead of complete, having in mind that there are some parts of such chandeliers and fixtures which, when imported into Austria-Hungary, are subject to higher rates of customs duty than other parts. Moreover, as some of the more expensive parts are manufactured in this country, certain parts that are not of such a high state of workmanship may be imported at a lower rate of duty.

It is also suggested here that catalogues in English are less effective than those in German, which is more readily understood.

[A list of dealers in gas or electric light fixtures in Fiume or Croatia may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82838.]

MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF VICTORIA FOR 1917.

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 15.]

The municipal budget of the city of Victoria for 1917 calls for an expenditure of \$1,799,695, which shows no increase over last year. According to the estimates 42 cents out of every dollar collected through direct property tax will go to pay the debt and other fixed charges. The total debt charges are made up as follows: General city debt, \$456,780; waterworks, \$209,823; schools, \$95,639; total, \$762,242. The estimated expenditures are: City debt, \$456,780; municipal council, \$7,000; legal department, \$7,498; civic salaries, \$32,264; city institutions, \$317,224; buildings, \$1,850; miscellaneous, \$78,350; education, \$325,640; board of health, \$35,000; waterworks department, \$246,769; waterworks, \$291,320; total, \$1,799,695.

The requirements for city departments include: Fire, \$129,478, of which \$33,836 is for 808 hydrant rentals; police, \$84,433; light, \$41,730; parks, \$18,206; library, \$14,360; market, \$3,192; Home for Aged and Infirm, \$13,162; labor bureau, \$1,510; cemetery, \$5,073; stores, \$2,799; pound, \$2,460.

Trade Directory of East Africa.

Consul Henry P. Starrett, at Mombasa, British East Africa, has transmitted a list of the leading importers and merchants of Mombasa, Nairobi, Kampala, and Zanzibar, a copy of which can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82877.

FOREIGN MARKETS FOR OFFICE SUPPLIES.**BRAZIL.**

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 10.]

The market for loose-leaf books, which is increasing in Brazil, depends to a certain extent upon certain laws that prevail here governing the registry at the "Junta Commercial" of the books used by business houses. Such registration applies to the journal and cash book, which must be numbered consecutively by pages, each of which is signed and stamped by the authorities of the bureau mentioned. There would obviously be no advantage in using a loose-leaf book under these restrictions, and it is doubtful whether such registration would be granted.

Press copy books for copies of commercial letters are registered in the same manner, and books thus registered carry more weight as evidence before the Brazilian courts. In these books no erasures are allowed, but errors must be visibly stricken out by the pen.

Books Used—Market for American Books.

Besides the books already mentioned, and special books for certain classes of business, a business house usually uses a ledger, a current-account book, and a sales book.

The manager of an important American concern here, handling office supplies extensively, states that he has not undertaken the sale of loose-leaf books by reason of the expensive educational campaign which would be required to bring these books into general use. Most stationers, however, carry loose-leaf books in stock, and the standard American sizes and styles are frequently to be seen.

Steel Furniture Sales Hampered by High Prices.

The market here for steel furniture has been somewhat limited by reason of the high customs duties, and more recently by high freight rates. Although it is much admired, American steel furniture would find much more favor if the ultimate selling price could be materially reduced. It has a sure market because of its being insect proof, provided prices are sufficiently low.

[A list of local importers who might be possible agents or purchasers of loose-leaf books, steel furniture, and other office supplies may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82857.]

DUTCH WEST INDIES.

[Consul George S. Messersmith, Curaçao, Nov. 2.]

The island of Curaçao has a population of about 33,000, of which number only about 2,000 are white. Willemstad, the only town on the island, has a population of about 11,000. All the business of the island centers in Willemstad.

There is no systematic agriculture on the island. There are no manufacturing industries to speak of outside of the weaving of straw hats. The chief business is the transshipment of cargo. On account of the importance of Willemstad as a port of transshipment, there is more business here than one usually finds in a town of 11,000 people in this part of the world.

Modern Office Furniture Uncommon—Steel Furniture Almost Unknown.

There is very little modern office furniture in the city. A few of the larger firms are buying modern desks and a few filing cabinets.

One of the chief hindrances to the sale of modern furniture is the local production of good imitations of American models in mahogany. Mahogany is cheap here and the native carpenters and cabinet-makers are skillful in imitating a modern desk or filing cabinet.

While steel furniture would perhaps be best suited to this climate, bugs and ants are not nearly so destructive here as they are in many tropical places, and wooden cabinets last a long time. The climate, too, is fairly dry; there is not enough moisture to effect furniture. I know of no steel furniture on the island outside of some steel safes. It is unlikely that steel office fittings will be much used here unless they can be bought at the same price as good wooden ones.

Oil Refinery Under Construction—Duty.

A Dutch petroleum concern is erecting a large oil refinery near Willemstad. While the plant is under erection the offices have been fitted up temporarily with local furniture. It is stated that the company will soon start the erection of its office building near Willemstad. As the company is a very large and wealthy Dutch corporation and as the plant here will be a large one, there is no doubt that the offices will be equipped with the best modern furniture. While the furniture may not be bought at once, it is suggested that interested American firms send catalogues and price lists to the manager of the company and to the engineer in charge. It is to be especially noted that both these men should receive catalogues and price lists. Correspondence may be in English.

The import duty on furniture of all kinds is 10 per cent ad valorem.

Small Market for Loose-Leaf Books.

There is no law in this colony, so far as can be learned, that prohibits the use of loose-leaf ledgers, journals, and cash books, but such devices are as yet not much used. There seems to be no prejudice against them, but the people are slow to make changes.

The firms that may be interested in buying office supplies would prefer to buy direct rather than through an agency. Correspondence with them should be in Spanish, although English is generally understood by the business men here. One firm is thinking of opening a bank of deposit and discount, and as it is very progressive, it may be interested in a complete set of loose-leaf books for a bank. Credit information may be obtained through Dun's or Bradstreet's, which have correspondents here, or through other commercial agencies.

The duty on loose-leaf books would be 3 per cent ad valorem.

[The names and addresses of the manager and engineer in charge of the Dutch petroleum company referred to and a list of Curaçao firms that might be interested in loose-leaf books may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82041.]

HONDURAS.

[Consul E. M. Lawton, Tegucigalpa, Nov. 2.]

The business men of Honduras who have visited this consulate and investigated the filing devices here used have invariably expressed admiration. Nevertheless there is no developed market for this class of supplies. The principal difficulty in introducing modern devices is the high cost of freight and customs duties. There are no

interior railroads in this district, and the Pacific port itself is on an island, so that the freight handling from ship side to this city, a distance of only 125 miles, is sometimes more than the entire cost of ocean freight from New York plus customs duties.

Duties—Direct Representation Customary.

The custom duty on all steel furniture is 5 cents silver per half-kilo (about \$0.016 per pound). If there are adornments of other metal, such as brass handles or brass card holders, the duty is 8 cents per half-kilo (\$0.025 per pound). Wooden furniture commands a duty of 30 cents per half kilo (\$0.095 per pound). The duty on accounting records and binding devices is 10 to 15 cents per half kilo (\$0.032 to \$0.048 per pound). Warehouse, toll, and port charges add approximately 2½ cents per half kilo (\$0.008 per pound) to the above prices.

The bulk of business in this consular district is handled by direct representation in New York and San Francisco. Most stores here are general dealers; there are almost no manufacturers' sales agents or commission men. Correspondence must be in Spanish.

[The names of firms who might be interested in acting as agents may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative officers. Refer to file No. 81994.]

SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 31.]

Modern business methods are followed in Barcelona and many offices are equipped like offices in the United States. Filing cabinets and other devices are on sale and are gradually coming into general use; but there is no extensive market for loose-leaf record books because Spanish commercial regulations forbid the use by business houses of journals and certain other records that are not fully bound, folded, and paged. This law is in force to prevent any dishonest practice in the pursuit of business or the exhibition of misleading records in suits at law.

Small office conveniences and supplies of American manufactures are sold in Barcelona. The heavy customs duty and freightage on larger pieces, such as steel filing sections and furniture, have hitherto been a serious obstacle to their popularization in the local market. But the Barcelona agents for American typewriters in several instances have showrooms where other office equipment is exhibited.

Correspondence in Spanish—Credit Ratings—Terms.

In correspondence it would be best to use Spanish. Credit ratings may be obtained from an agency such as Dun's, which has a branch office in Barcelona, or through the local correspondents of American banks. It would be well to offer prospective customers in Spain the most attractive possible terms of sale, which should compare favorably with the terms granted under normal conditions by European manufacturers; these are generally credits of 60 to 90 days or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise.

[A list of Barcelona dealers in office supplies may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82328.]

[Consul Percival Gassett, Malaga, Nov. 4.]

Small Market in Malaga District.

Practically no filing equipment of any kind is on sale here, but a stationer became subagent in Malaga a year ago for a business man in Madrid. The latter has just started a factory, in which he puts together office furniture, filing sections, etc., which he imports knocked down. His catalogue shows American goods of quartered oak. The agent in Malaga has sold only one section. He has no room in his store to place these goods on exhibition, and, as is customary here, makes no special effort to let people know about them. Three or four merchants have ordered wooden filing sections direct from the United States, after having seen the filing cabinet in the consulate.

Only a few of the business men here seem to be interested in modern methods; the majority would rather not spend money for filing cabinets. Few merchants in Malaga have so voluminous a correspondence that the need of a filing cabinet is pressing. Undoubtedly more filing equipment could be sold, however, if it were not so difficult to have the goods seen. No retail dealer here, it is thought, has the space in his store to put the goods on exhibition, nor would he want to buy one until he had received an order.

High Freight Rates—Duties.

The freight rates from the United States would make it impossible at present for ready-made, steel, filing cabinets to compete against wooden ones imported in parts and put together here, even though the former pays a lower rate of duty. On steel filing equipment (from the United States) the duty would be \$6.75 per 100 kilos, net, or a little over 3 cents a pound. On oak furniture, in parts, it would be \$10 per 100 kilos, net, or 4½ cents a pound. The great difference in the freight would be due to the cubic space occupied by steel equipment.

SWITZERLAND.

[Vice Consul James L. A. Burrell, St. Gall, Nov. 2.]

The larger houses in the St. Gall consular district are interested in modern office equipment, and employ it to a considerable extent, although there is great room for improvement. At present the importation of filing cabinets and other furniture is difficult owing to the freight, which is paid by the amount of room occupied.

The laws of Switzerland do not prohibit the use of loose-leaf ledgers, journals, and cash books. They merely provide that the books be kept in a regular manner ("ordnungsgemäss"). But the account books from the United States do not please the local firms, because they are not lined to suit their requirements. The custom here is to have such books lined on order of the purchaser.

The local dealers usually buy outright, three months net or 30 days with 3 to 5 per cent.

Another difficulty at present is the unsatisfactory shipping conditions. A local firm, which placed a large order for American carbon paper, has already received the bill for the goods, which have been on the way for over three months, but has no idea when they will reach here. This is very discouraging, since the present time, when other

sources of supply are closed, should be used to establish a firm foothold for American goods.

[A list of dealers in office supplies in St. Gall, Switzerland, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 82277.]

UNITED KINGDOM

[Consul Ripley Wilton, London, Nov. 17.]

There is always a market in England for office equipment, provided an efficient agent is appointed and sufficient sums are spent regularly each year for advertising in suitable journals. As many of the well-known agents are already bound to firms trading on the English market, it is suggested that advertisements might be placed in the Organizer, 2 Breems Building, London, E. C.; The Stationer, 26a Tudor Street, E. C.; and The System, 43/44 Shoe Lane, E. C., to obtain agents who may be free to accept appointment. It is possible that the secretary of the Manufacturers Agents' Association, 90/91 Queen Street, Cheapside, E. C., London, might be able to suggest desirable firms.

The agent, who must be appointed, to get present or future results, would probably work on commission, but this would form the subject of negotiation and agreement. With a new article in competition with those already on the market, there might be difficulty in getting dealers to buy outright but the agent should be able to advise on all points.

Import Prohibitions—Laying Foundation for Future Trade.

There is, as yet, no prohibition on the importation of ledgers, but filing cabinets and all other office furniture are on the prohibited list, for the importation of which a license would have to be obtained. Such licenses are difficult to procure at present and prices have advanced by about 50 per cent. Adding machines may still be imported.

English business men are interested in modern methods and are looking forward to the resumption of active trade after peace has been declared. For this reason the foundation of the business with this country should be laid at the present time, even though results may not be obtained until some future date.

NEW TELEGRAPH LINE IN COLOMBIA.

A recent Colombian law provides for the construction of a telegraph line connecting the city of Arauca, on the Venezuelan border, with the telegraphic system of the rest of Colombia. An executive decree in a recent number of the Diario Oficial provides for the work to begin simultaneously in four sections, starting from Arauca to the nearest telegraph station of Tamara, from Tamara to Arauca, and in each direction from the midway station of Tame. A construction manager appointed by the Government will have charge of the work, and the posts and other needed materials will be furnished so far as possible by the towns through which the new line passes.

A \$4,000,000 hotel is to be built in Toronto, Canada. Construction work will commence in the spring of 1917.

REPORT ON COTTON SEED AND COTTONSEED PRODUCTS.

The United States Bureau of the Census has issued a report on the quantity of cotton seed received, crushed, and on hand, and of cottonseed products manufactured, shipped out, and on hand for the three-month period from August 1 to October 31, 1916.

The quantity of cotton seed received at oil mills from August 1 to October 31 was 2,297,233 tons; the quantity crushed between those dates was 1,082,596 tons, and the quantity on hand October 31 was 1,227,712 tons.

Statistics of cottonseed products manufactured, shipped out, and on hand, as prepared by the Census Bureau, are as follows:

Items.	Produced from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31.	Shipped out from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31.	On hand on Oct. 31. ^a
Crude oil.....pounds..	319, 250, 235	254, 727, 687	^b 72, 735, 305
Refined oil.....do.....	194, 378, 178		^c 78, 970, 283
Cake and meal.....tons..	513, 421	492, 090	167, 847
Hulls.....do.....	261, 133	169, 111	^d 162, 355
Linters.....500-pound bales..	270, 760	138, 571	^d 154, 263
Hull fiber.....do.....	64, 212	73, 541	^d 7, 563
Motes, grabbots, and sweepings.....do.....	6, 536	1, 594	^d 6, 410

^a Oil in transit not included.

^b Includes 5,565,095 pounds held by refining and manufacturing establishments, and 68,331 pounds by brokers and in storage.

^c Includes 6,005,550 pounds held by refiners, brokers, agents, and warehousemen at places other than refineries and manufacturing establishments.

^d Includes 8,441 tons of hulls, 12,423 bales of linters, 733 bales of hull fiber, and 218 bales of motes, grabbots, and sweepings stored elsewhere than at the mills.

AMERICANS PURCHASE BRITISH COLUMBIA SMELTER.

[Vice Consul R. M. Newcomb, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 14.]

The Ladysmith smelter, formerly operated by the Tye Copper Co., an English concern, has been purchased by American capitalists, and as soon as extensions and improvements involving an outlay of \$100,000 can be made the plant will be put into operation.

Efforts have been made for some time by local organizations interested in the development of mines on Vancouver Island to induce the Provincial Government to take steps for the opening of the Ladysmith smelter. With its extensions it will soon be in full operation and will employ more than 100 men. Facilities provided by the extensions will enable it to turn out blister copper, whereas formerly it could produce only copper matte. Mine operators on Vancouver Island have been sending their ores to the smelter at Tacoma, Wash., for treatment, and with the operation of the Ladysmith smelter the necessity for this will be obviated.

It is stated that the Tacoma smelter is very busy, and if it is offered more business than it can handle the mine producers on Vancouver Island would find their smelter facilities curtailed without some arrangement on Vancouver Island.

The new owners propose to make the plant thoroughly modern and install converters. Blister copper, instead of being sent out of the Province, probably will be treated by large interior refineries. The capacity of the Ladysmith smelter is 700 tons but will be greatly increased.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of leave.	Address.
Blake, Maxwell.....	Tangier, Morocco.....	Mar. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.....	Feb. 10	2418 Seventh Street, Meridian, Miss.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.....	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Jan. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 24	48 Savage Street, Charleston, S. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.....	..do....	"Islington" Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.

JAPANESE STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S DIVIDEND.

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, forwarded by Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Yokohama, Nov. 16.]

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has decided to pay a dividend for the last term at the rate of 28 per cent per annum. The following are the last term's accounts: Gross income, \$19,443,848; gross expenditure, \$9,585,693; reserve for depreciation of vessels, \$697,773; reserve for shipping insurance, \$386,697; reserve for extensive repairs, \$162,824; reserve for depreciation of buildings, \$14,823; net profit, \$8,596,038; brought forward, \$3,504,224; total, \$12,100,263; reserve, \$429,803; allowance for directors and auditors, \$99,700; dividend, 8 per cent, \$548,350; extra dividend, 2 per cent, \$137,087; extraordinary extra dividend, 18 per cent, \$1,233,787; special war allowance for employees, \$199,400; carried forward, \$9,452,136.

The management of the company explain that as the large profits for the term are due to the abnormal conditions of war, it has been decided to carry forward the larger portion of the profits, to be disposed of in appropriate ways later on.

To consider the proposed disposal of last term's accounts a general meeting of shareholders was called for November 29.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 849 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 3928.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving the schedule numbers, for furnishing the following: Schedule 561, furnishing and erecting steel bumpers; schedule 562, 12-inch K transformers; schedule 563, copper tubing, countersunk screw bolts, United States standard thread gauges, and collar screws; schedule 564, tool boxes, test plugs and lifting screws, screw drivers, spanners and wrenches, drill rod steel adjusting tools, open-end wrenches, and steel afterbody shells; schedule 565, 800-pound ships' bells, 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute blowers, and lap-welding steel casing; schedule 566, furnishing and installing insulation system; schedule 567, 10-inch engine lathes and 8-inch precision lathes; schedule 568, furnish and install water-tube boiler; schedule 569, oxygen rescue breathing apparatus, compressed sheet cork, unlined linen fire hose, oil-burning running lights, confidential information lockers, mail-clerks' safes, ships' water-closets, 36-inch bleached and unbleached muslin, 32-inch and 36-inch cotton-mattress ticking, white cotton twine, jute twine, boatswains' calls, 30 fathoms long $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch galvanized boat chains, and 70-foot long $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch collision mat chains; schedule 570, lead pipe, rolled Muntz metal angles, pig lead, sheet lead in rolls, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wire half-and-half solder, and sheet tin; schedule 571, acetone, technical muriatic acid, alcohol in cans and barrels, alcohol in tank cars, metallic brown in oil, calcium carbide, paint drier, dry chrome green, tallow, and turpentine in tank cars; schedule 572, artificial, harness, hydraulic, lacing, rigging, and upholstery leather; schedule 573, wire brads, round cement tin cans, "C" clamps, screw clamps, high speed drills, files, padlocks, composition and iron nails, garnet paper, spring cotter pins, steel taper pins, rod handle drawer pulls, brass machine and wood screws, brass wood screws, galvanized steel wire rope sockets, tacks, 50-foot steel measuring tapes, vises, pipe wrenches, and screw wrenches; schedule 574, steel boiler tubes; schedule 575, lighting and power wire, telephone wire, and triplex cable; schedule 576, pure sperm oil; schedule 577, round cotton-wick packing, molding sand, peanut-size crushed silica, cotton rags, 28-inch Turkish toweling, galvanized steel or iron pipe straps, compression brass grease cups, and commercial sheet brass; schedule 578, electric heater, and single conductor wire; schedule 579, whisk brooms, low-pitch clarinets, low-pitch flutes, low-pitch piccolos, pay officers' safes, teaspoons, and silver-plated ware; schedule 580, candles, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch and 1-inch close-link chain, rawhide belt lacing, refrigerators, and lock nuts; schedule 581, sulphuric acid, petrolatum, and dry Venetian red; schedule 582, worm-gear chain blocks, steel bolts, steel bolts and nuts, steel-wire file brushes, calipers, "C" clamps, files, oiler sets, steel and woven measuring tapes, 1-quart capacity gasoline torches, vises, alligator type wrenches, pipe wrenches, and screw wrenches; schedule 583, brass bibb cocks, composition pipe fittings, brass pipe, and check, angle, etc., composition valves; and schedule 584, dry loofah fiber sponges, cotton rags, Turkish toweling, commercial sheet brass, and bar copper.

Bridge cranes, No. 3929.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 2, 1917, for furnishing and installing one 80-ton bridge crane, three 15-ton bridge cranes, twelve 5-ton wall cranes, and eight 3-ton wall cranes, more or less, in each of the new structural shops at the navy yards, Norfolk, Va., and Philadelphia, Pa. Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Washington, D. C., or to the commandants of the navy yards named.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency.....	23378	Mittens.....	23376
Down, mattress.....	23381	Office appliances.....	23384
Dyestuffs.....	23382	Ticking, mattress.....	23381
Feathers.....	23381	Tires and tubes.....	23375
Gloves.....	23376	Tractors, farm.....	23380
Hair, mattress.....	23381	Trucks, motor.....	23383
Hardware, furniture.....	23379	Underclothing.....	23376
Hosiery.....	23378	Wearing apparel, men's.....	23376
Indicators, revolution.....	23377	Wheels.....	23375

23375.*—A company in China is in the market for heavy wire wheels, 32 inches by 2 inches, similar to those used on motorcycles, to be used in the construction of jinrikishas. Wheel equipment, such as spokes, tires, inner tubes, etc., also desired. The complete outfit of two wheels, axle, tires, etc., is now being furnished for approximately \$21 gold. Payment will be made by sight draft against bill of lading. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23376.*—A man in Norway wishes to obtain an agency for the sale of men's heavy underclothing and extra-thick hosiery. Extra-heavy, cheap gloves and mittens are also desired. C. i. f. quotations are preferred. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23377.*—A firm in Spain wishes to purchase revolution indicators for aviation or automobile motors. It also desires to arrange for an exclusive agency. Payment will be made by draft upon receipt of goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. factory. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23378.*—A man in Brazil desires to secure agencies for American goods. He does not specify any particular line. Reference.

23379.*—A firm in Switzerland wishes to purchase furniture hardware, brass and iron fittings, and ball-bearing castors. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Reference. Correspondence in French or German.

23380.†—A man in France is in the market for low and medium-priced farm tractors, preferably from 6 to 24 horsepower. He would like to purchase in lots of 100. If necessary, cash will be paid against documents. Quotations are desired c. i. f. French ports, but may be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23381.*—A company in Switzerland desires to purchase materials used in making mattresses, such as ticking, hair, feathers, and downs. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or German.

23382.*—A firm in Spain wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of dyestuffs used in coloring cotton, woolen, and silk textiles. The firm also desires to purchase on its own account. Cash will be paid against documents. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

23383.*—A man in Switzerland desires to purchase several 1 to 2 ton motor trucks. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence should be in French or German. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Reference.

23384.†—A firm in France is in the market for office appliances. Cash will be paid. Quotations are desired c. i. f. French ports. Correspondence may be in English.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington D. C., at \$2.50 per year

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ENGLAND REQUISITIONS LEATHER STOCKS.

[Cablegram from the American Consul General, London, Dec. 26.]

War office announces intention to take possession all leather stock being produced or to be produced up to March 31 of following grades: Vegetable-tanned bends, butts, and backs of 10, 20, and 14 pounds and upward, respectively; chrome-tanned bends, butts, and backs of 7 iron and upward; vegetable-tanned shoulders of 6 iron and upward; kip butts of 1½ MM substance and upward; kip sides, except semichrome vegetable grained and chrome upper leathers of 1½ MM substances and upward; upper leathers of any other approved process.

CANAL TRAFFIC IN NOVEMBER.

[Panama Canal Record, Dec. 20.]

During November 148 vessels of 436,204 net tons (canal measurement) passed through the Panama Canal, 72 of them (net tonnage 220,806) in transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and 76 (net tonnage 215,398) from the Pacific to the Atlantic. They carried 519,043 tons of cargo (198,718 tons from the Atlantic to the Pacific; 320,325 tons from the Pacific to the Atlantic).

The tolls earned during the month totaled \$420,113. Of this amount \$202,760 was from ships passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and \$217,353 from ships passing from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

With respect to nationality, 64 of the ships were of British registry, 33 United States, 11 Norwegian, 9 Chilean, 8 Dutch, 8 Peruvian, 4 Spanish, 3 Costa Rican, 2 each under the Japanese, Danish, and Swedish flags, and 1 each under the Mexican and Cuban.

The aggregate length of all the vessels was 50,634 feet, or 9.5 statute miles.

During the month of November test car No. 1 of the United States Bureau of Standards tested 16 railroad-track scales in Wisconsin and 22 in the vicinity of Chicago. Test car No. 2 tested 13 track scales in Pennsylvania, 1 in West Virginia, 1 in Ohio, and 3 in New York. The record for the month was a total of 56 track scales.

SHIPPING AND TRADE CONDITIONS IN CHINA.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Nov. 10.]

The high freight rates prevailing during 1915 and the first half of 1916 have had a marked effect on China's trade. Freight rates increased from 300 per cent to 500 per cent above the rates prevailing before the war, and this, in connection with the shortage of tonnage, operated to paralyze the export trade, notwithstanding the greatly increased demand for China's products due to the war.

Export freight rates from China are now rapidly approaching normal, due perhaps largely to the present high value of silver, the highest in 30 years. This high rate of silver exchange operates against exports also, its practical effect being to increase greatly the original first cost. Thus, with prewar normal exchange, for a product offered at 2.25 Mexican dollars, America would have to pay only \$1 gold. At the present rate 2.25 Mexican dollars is equivalent to about \$1.30 gold. That is to say, on account of exchange alone, prices are 30 per cent higher.

While freight rates and high value of silver both tend to reduce the volume of exports, the consequent loss of profits to the American exporter in China is partially offset by his increased commissions. The American exporter does not, as a rule, buy stocks except to fill orders. His practice is to obtain local prices, figure the c. i. f. cost, and make quotations based upon that cost plus his commission, so that the higher the freights and the higher the exchange rate, the greater will be his commissions on such business as he is able to procure. This compensating advantage of high rates is not shared in by the producer.

Raising Foodstuffs for Home Consumption.

The abnormal situation with reference to freights and exchange resulted in heavy losses to the farmers and land owners in the interior and has caused a change in the class of farm products produced. Formerly the Chinese produced and exported the best quality of rice and other supplies, and purchased articles of food of low grade from neighboring countries for their own consumption. High freight tariffs reduced the possible profits upon both the export and import of agricultural products, with the result that the Chinese are beginning to find it more profitable to raise foodstuffs of a medium grade for their own consumption. China is learning to adapt its productions to its needs and to rely increasingly less upon foreign commerce either to market its products or supply its wants. This, in connection with high silver exchange, has resulted in lessening the demand for tonnage, with a corresponding lowering of freight rates.

The indications seem to be that China is rapidly adapting itself to the high cost of many articles as a result of the war and high freight rates; that it is learning to become a producer of many articles for which it formerly relied upon foreign exchange; and that, notwithstanding the present great impetus to the import trade, due to the low rates for gold exchange, its imports will gradually become smaller, with a resulting lessening of the profits of the importers and the steamship companies.

TOBACCO IMPORTS INTO FRENCH AND BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Nov. 15.]

The greater part of the tobacco imported into French and British West Africa is that in the leaf. Although statistics as to its source are not available, it appears that at least 95 per cent of it originates in the United States. The following table shows the imports during the past three years:

Colony.	1913	1914	1915	Colony.	1913	1914	1915
French:				British:			
Senegal.....	\$378,012	\$261,630	\$527,622	Gambia.....	\$75,365	\$21,916	\$56,913
French Guinea.....	73,466	72,333	88,760	Sierra Leone.....	366,298	304,505	308,476
Ivory Coast.....	54,109	51,107	63,653	Gold Coast.....	458,959	554,666	612,401
Dahomey.....	72,480	144,294	204,579	Nigeria.....	1,123,625	491,630	1,148,726

It appears that only the Gold Coast Colony and Nigeria import a large proportion of manufactured tobacco, the average for the Gold Coast being about one-half in value for the three years under review, and for Nigeria about one-fourth in value. Practically all of the manufactured tobacco imported by West Africa is of cigarettes in hermetically sealed tins. The natives take readily to the use of cigarettes, and their preference for them to the leaf and pipe is growing rapidly.

American Representatives—Kinds of Tobacco in Demand.

The only representative of American tobacco in West Africa is at Dakar, where a large American exporting company has a branch in which from 30 to 40 natives are regularly engaged in "re-treating" the tobacco consumed in Senegal. The tobacco might, however, be kept in bond and reshipped to other parts of the coast without "re-treating."

The trader as a rule prefers tobacco of a regular color, length, and number of leaves to the head. The petty native trader always gives attention to these qualities, as they enter largely in the exchange or barter for the farmer's raw products. In other words, if a certain class of tobacco has been shipped for a considerable time to one section of the country it would not be wise to ship another class there having a different color, number, and length of leaves, as the consumer has already become accustomed to the first on the market.

NATIONAL MINING CONGRESS IN PERU.

The President of Peru has issued a decree providing for the organization of a national mining congress, to be opened in July, 1917. The purpose of the congress, as stated in the decree which appears in *El Peruano* of October 31, is to define the position of the Peruvian Government in the encouragement of the mining industry. To arrange the program and other details of the congress the President has appointed a committee composed of the Director of Fomento, the Director of the Board of Mining Engineers, the Director of the School of Engineering, the President of the National Society of Mining, and the President of the Society of Engineers.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PORT OF GENOA.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, detailed as vice consul, Genoa, Italy, Nov. 20.]

The department of public works has approved the plan submitted by the Genoa Harbor Board for the following extensions to the port of Genoa: (1) West as far as Polcevera, covering the proposed extension of the great shipbuilding plant of Ansaldo. (2) The extension of the Galliera, or outer mole, by 656 feet. (3) The construction of two small moles for insuring quieter waters in the port.

Of these improvements, the first only is of great importance. This further extension beyond the Basin Victor Emanuel III (now under construction) comprises the creation of a system of smaller connecting basins, of an active commercial zone, another possible free port, and large construction yards. The water surface, absolutely calm, thus added is more than 247 acres. This new territory may be utilized as soon as the outer defense wall is completed. The new construction will require eight years, and the estimated cost is 16,000,000 lire (\$3,088,000). By this extension the possible amount of traffic easily handled yearly in the port of Genoa will be increased to 10,000,000 tons (in 1915, 7,400,697 tons).

Plans are under consideration for the building of a large maritime station for trans-Atlantic liners and passenger service.

SIX MONTHS' TRADE OF CHUNGKING DISTRICT.

[Consul M. S. Myers, Chungking, China, Oct. 28.]

The trade of the Chungking district during the current year has been carried on under the most unfavorable circumstances. It is only during the past few weeks that steamers have been available for passengers and cargo on both up and down river journeys. Junk traffic is more flourishing during the low-water season; in the winter and early spring, and at high water comparatively few junks attempt the up-river service. Steamers usually begin running about May 1 and continue until about December 1. Although the steamers carry a relatively small portion of the trade of this port the fact that they did not run until the month of July has had its influence on the volume of trade. The withdrawal of transportation facilities, more than any other factor, brought about a marked decrease in the trade of this port.

The Import and Export Trade.

Among imports during the first six months of 1916, cigarettes, foreign and Chinese—the latter made by a foreign company—show a considerable increase. Practically all descriptions of cottons showed decreases, the most marked being in colored and figured italians and gray plain shirtings; white plain shirtings, however, were distinguished for their increase. Among foreign imports no other increases are to be noted. The importation of needles had practically ceased owing to the German supply having been cut off, but during the July-September quarter 7,250 thousands were entered, which indicates that other countries are beginning to supply this article of trade. Foreign dyes are no longer a customs return, so greater attention is

now being paid to native vegetable dyes of which this Province has an abundance and a wide variety.

The exports for the first six months of 1916 generally showed a decrease, the most marked exceptions being in vegetable tallow and wheat. Medicines show an increase in terms of gold dollars, but, owing to the different rates of conversion for the two years, a decrease is indicated in the silver equivalents. In the July-September quarter, there was a noteworthy increase in turmeric, 11,800 hundredweight having been exported.

Toward the end of the July-September quarter a marked revival of trade occurred, the September revenue collection of the maritime customs being more than double that of August and about \$15,000 (United States) more than September, 1915. This may be attributed to increased transit pass fees, the availability of junks for cargoes, and increased steamer tonnage. The outlook for the remainder of the year is comparatively bright, although on some of the principal high-ways of commerce there is practically no movement of trade.

Principal Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the principal imports into and exports from Chungking during the first six months of 1915 and 1916:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1915.	Jan.-June, 1916.
IMPORTS.			IMPORTS—continued.		
Foreign:			Chinese:		
Braid.....value..	\$4,917	\$9,043	Candles. hundredweight..	117	1,067
Cigarettes.....thousands..	140	4,530	Cigarettes, hundred-weight.....	111	127
Clocks and watches, pieces.....	3,523	1,846	Cotton—		
Cotton goods—			Drills.....pieces..	62,342	10,952
Chintzes and plain prints.....pieces..	10,687	4,769	Yarn.....hundredweight..	105,094	50,309
Drills.....do....	2,680	2,540	Medicines.....value..	\$38,652	\$42,448
Italians, plain—			EXPORTS.		
Fast black.....do....	3,851	750	Bristles.....hundredweight..	8,070	4,381
Colored and figured, pieces.....	48,431	4,070	Fibers, hemp.....do....	8,664	8,740
Sheetings, gray, plain, pieces.....	10,183	1,240	Grass cloth.....do....	6,255	7,066
Shirtings—			Hides, cow and buffalo.....hundredweight..	38,138	18,532
Gray, plain.....pieces..	83,128	24,580	Medicines.....value..	\$394,176	\$458,653
White, plain.....do....	24,288	40,718	Musk.....pounds.....	1,157	1,203
Velvets and velveteens, yards.....	108,672	12,760	Nutgalls.....hundredweight..	12,159	8,486
Venetians.....pieces..	18,506	3,773	Rhubarb.....do....	7,728	3,580
Yarn—			Silk:		
Indian, hundred-weight.....	62,998	35,637	Raw, white—		
Japanese, hundred-weight.....	42,112	8,512	Steam flature.....do....	82	117
Dyes, aniline.....value..	\$1,023		All other.....do....	43	6
Ginseng, American and Japanese, clarified, pounds.....	23,477	8,704	Raw, yellow—		
Kerosene.....gallons..	1,054,360	236,700	Steam flature.....do....	877	403
Lamps and lamp ware, value.....	\$5,513	\$3,610	All other.....do....	1,277	1,199
Machines, sewing and knitting.....pieces..	174	33	Raw, wild.....do....	132	105
Medicines.....value..	\$30,534	\$9,992	Cocoons, refuse.....do....	1,343	539
Needles.....thousands..	6,000	3,000	Skins, goat (untanned).....pieces..	1,191,961	792,332
Soap, toilet.....value..	\$3,409	\$1,518	Tallow, vegetable, hundred-weight.....	15,703	32,622
Socks, cotton.....dozens..	9,378	7,719	Tobacco, leaf, hundred-weight.....	1,249	6,039
Soda ash, hundred-weight.....	21,857		Turmeric.....hundredweight..	23,462	17,421
Umbrellas.....pieces..	45,839	25,000	Wax, white.....do....	3,878	2,323
			Wheat.....do....	6,154	15,508
			Wool, sheep's.....do....	31,371	21,782

In this report the Haikwan tael for 1915 is valued at \$0.612 United States currency, and for 1916, \$0.75.

THE MODERN SWISS WATCH INDUSTRY.

[Consul Walter H. Schulz, Berne, Oct. 28.]

The Swiss watch industry was founded at Geneva in 1587 by Charles Cusin, of Antun, Burgundy. That it grew slowly there is shown by the fact that a century later Geneva had only 100 watchmakers, who employed 300 assistants. However, by 1760 there were 800 watchmakers established in that center, with 5,000 to 6,000 employees.

In the Jura Mountains the growth of the industry was much more rapid; it developed in and about Neuchâtel following the success of Daniel Jean Richard in making watches in 1679, and by 1752 the number of watchmakers in the Jura Mountains had reached 464. La Chaux-de-Fonds, with a population of 9,678, in 1840 had 3,109 watchmakers and is to-day the leading exporter of gold watches in Switzerland. The Canton Berne enjoys a similar reputation for silver and base-metal watches.

Beginning of the Factory System.

Watchmaking was for hundreds of years a household industry in Switzerland; it is yet in many sections of the country. The first factory, that of Sandoz & Trot, established in Geneva in 1804, failed; Messrs. Humbert and Darier met with no better success in 1820. To Vacheron & Constantin at Geneva goes the credit of establishing the first complete Swiss watch factory in 1840. Other factories followed, and in 1842 motors came into use, superseding so-called foot power. Then came the perfecting of the stem wind and later the manufacture of watchcases by machinery.

By 1867, or 25 years after Vacheron & Constantin's success, there were in Switzerland 83 watch factories and 63 other factories devoted to the manufacture of parts of watches. Thirty-six of these were in Canton Berne, employing 4,152 people; 7 at Neuchâtel, with 729 workmen; 18 at Geneva, with 700 workmen. By 1883, 20 per cent of the labor engaged in the Swiss watch industry was employed in factories; to-day the percentage is placed at 50. The number of people employed in Swiss watch factories and in the so-called "home" industry in 1915 is estimated at 60,000, but it is claimed that over 300,000 persons, or one-twelfth of the total population of the Confederation, are directly affected by the industry.

Industry Now Highly Organized.

Perhaps no industry in Switzerland is to-day more highly organized, in both a factory and a labor sense, than is the manufacture of watches. The workmen and factory owners have organizations for their protection, at the head of which is the Swiss Chamber of Commerce for the Watch Industry, which has branches at the principal factory centers—Biel, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Geneva, and Neuchâtel. A further feature of the Swiss watch industry is the paternal care exercised by the cantonal governments and by the manufacturers themselves to foster the industry in every way. This has led to the establishment of special schools and courses of study devoted exclusively to watchmaking. High-grade technical men have been developed in this manner, not to mention corps of skilled operatives. There have also been enacted special cantonal laws safeguarding trade and factory marks, models, and patents. An assay office for the con-

trol of the quality of gold and silver watchcases was opened in 1880. The cantonal observatory at Neuchâtel, erected in 1859, is world famous and has played no small part in establishing the reputation for accuracy possessed by Swiss timepieces.

In order to promote and assist the watch industry, the cantonal government of Berne has encouraged (a) the establishment of information offices in the principal watchmaking centers, through which manufacturers are informed regarding the stocks of watches, materials, and parts available and labor conditions in the industry; (b) the establishment of a permanent exhibition of articles used in the watch industry; (c) the preparation of statistics relating to the watch industry; (d) the establishment of a watch manufacturers' association, in order to regulate the production of specialties and to permit of the discussion of technical and commercial questions; (e) the protection of the interests of the watch industry by establishing protective tariffs and negotiating commercial conventions.

Distinctive Features of Swiss Watches.

Watch construction is much alike the world over, and it is not the purpose of this report to deal with Swiss processes other than those that are claimed by some to be distinctive. Thus attention must be called to the discarding by the Swiss of the old two-plate system (where the plates were held together by small pillars) in favor of a method whereby the upper plate is replaced by a double-angled U-shaped stud. The studs are attached to the lower plate in the usual manner and have the usual holes for axles and shafts. It is claimed that this form of construction greatly facilitates repairs.

Swiss watches in general fall into two categories, the lever movement and the horizontal or so-called cylinder movement, which characterizes the low-grade Swiss watch. The latter is made almost exclusively in the Soleure district.

Price Cutting Results from Demand for Cheap Timepieces.

Only a small number of watch manufacturers have gone in for the production of war material in this section. The number so engaged is less than 15 per cent. Undoubtedly the great demand for cheap watches has prevented a larger number from accepting lucrative war contracts. While the cheap watch yields but a small profit, the large orders received have nevertheless enabled Swiss operators to keep their organizations intact—an important consideration to the manufacturer.

But the increased output of cheap watches in Switzerland and the absence of orders for quality goods have not been without their effect upon the trade generally, for an era of price cutting has resulted, and buyers are showing a disposition to withhold orders in anticipation of further reductions. The entire subject is receiving the earnest consideration of the watch syndicate, and a movement is on foot to increase prices, especially for those grades that are turned out in large quantity, as it is claimed that these are being sold too cheaply. The price of gold watches will not be materially affected if the plans of the syndicate are carried out. Swiss manufacturers also propose, it is said, to assure for themselves in the future more favorable terms of payment, especially in the cheap-watch trade. The old practice of accepting payment in foreign moneys is to be discouraged as much as possible.

Switzerland's Chief Customers.

The part played by the watch in the industrial life of the Swiss people since 1893 and its importance as a competitor of the American watch the world over are shown by the following export figures:

Year.	Watches and movements ex- ported.	
	Number.	Value.
1893.....	4,191,002	\$18,102,188
1913.....	13,815,737	35,328,496
1914.....	10,019,006	23,316,928
1915.....	13,877,456	26,385,321

The principal markets for Swiss watches in the order of their importance in 1915 are listed below:

Countries.	1914		1915		Differ- ence.
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	
United Kingdom.....	3,111,900	\$4,080,489	5,298,625	\$8,418,551	+ 57.29
Germany.....	1,101,845	3,360,803	1,686,075	3,050,019	+ 9.34
Austria.....	761,306	2,130,261	1,705,413	2,923,561	+ 37.34
United States.....	1,298,749	1,984,088	1,342,318	2,032,666	+ 2.46
Russia.....	225,090	1,901,079	469,123	1,732,174	+ 6.26
France.....	128,464	445,734	555,403	1,461,504	+ 227.90
Italy.....	339,672	1,362,122	309,967	1,004,936	+ 27.51
Spain.....	349,678	822,462	386,625	1,001,215	+ 21.74
British India.....	471,904	548,576	507,866	634,588	+ 15.66
Sweden.....	95,116	334,305	119,323	438,151	+ 30.80
Denmark.....	97,685	274,885	137,490	418,107	+ 51.40
Netherlands.....	173,438	294,857	269,688	368,436	+ 24.97
Argentina.....	174,718	450,081	150,080	315,940	- 29.69
Canada.....	148,296	285,699	149,831	259,969	- 9.01
Japan.....	180,361	297,536	137,618	239,667	- 19.85
Australia.....	31,233	79,301	104,259	233,692	+ 193.35
Roumania.....	69,806	193,224	58,061	178,023	- 7.36
China.....	190,301	333,947	101,267	176,547	- 42.34
Egypt.....	64,640	120,664	91,078	175,482	+ 34.89
Norway.....	31,734	117,133	36,673	166,091	+ 41.69
Dutch India.....	140,755	167,641	72,570	107,477	- 35.89
Portugal.....	40,764	140,046	36,750	104,444	- 26.43

Export Trade in Detail.

If Great Britain leads in the importation from Switzerland of finished watches, the United States easily leads in finished movements, as it imported 696,977, valued at \$1,070,745, from Switzerland during 1915. Russia was the next largest customer for Swiss movements in 1915, purchasing 253,346 movements, valued at \$432,922, contrasted with 91,990 movements, valued at \$156,085, imported in 1914. Russia is also the best customer for watchcases.

The following table, showing the exact nature of the Swiss watch trade with its principal customer nations, should be of interest to American watch exporters:

Articles and destinations.	1914		1915	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
United States.....	1,398,749	\$1,984,088	1,342,104	\$2,032,667
Watches:				
Base metal.....	590,676	468,788	538,312	417,611
Silver.....	49,044	111,677	44,326	97,643
Gold.....	46,221	366,973	43,120	341,263
Repeaters, etc.....	508	16,419	877	26,339
Other.....	11,026	47,839	13,708	64,980
Movements, finished.....	701,375	951,641	696,977	1,070,745
Cases, finished.....		34,661	6,798	11,827

Articles and destinations.	1914		1915	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
Argentina.....	174,718	\$450,032	150,020	\$315,940
Watches:				
Base metal.....	140,306	154,305	113,285	118,088
Silver.....	23,511	79,473	24,765	76,526
Gold.....	8,358	159,660	4,918	91,174
Repeaters, etc.....	190	7,642	116	8,122
Other.....	2,351	48,953	6,936	22,030
Australia.....	31,233	79,301	104,253	233,092
Watches:				
Base metal.....	21,352	38,784	68,785	117,644
Silver.....	6,337	17,018	28,151	84,296
Gold.....	3,544	23,409	3,572	22,262
Other.....			1,047	3,108
Movements, finished.....			2,697	5,782
Austria-Hungary.....	761,303	2,120,261	1,880,126	2,923,561
Watches:				
Base metal.....	428,896	514,843	1,286,593	1,387,326
Silver.....	237,496	575,196	288,798	653,722
Gold.....	70,648	904,539	80,785	641,749
Repeaters, etc.....	1,143	10,479	695	4,375
Other.....	17,130	100,583	44,493	179,818
Movements, finished.....			4,049	12,763
Cases, finished.....		24,651	174,713	48,808
British India.....	471,904	548,577	507,805	634,580
Watches:				
Base metal.....	408,863	317,927	434,795	375,960
Silver.....	54,532	115,911	58,659	134,529
Gold.....	10,491	94,663	12,008	114,981
Other.....	3,028	20,077	2,253	9,140
Canada.....	148,206	285,708	182,033	289,960
Watches:				
Base metal.....	26,126	22,356	42,263	36,565
Silver.....	2,521	5,064	10,253	16,067
Gold.....	713	7,408	770	3,372
Movements, finished.....	118,983	219,609	96,545	183,069
Cases, finished.....		31,276	32,202	20,246
Denmark.....	97,595	274,848	127,499	416,107
Watches:				
Base metal.....	31,251	42,381	41,850	51,074
Silver.....	59,461	161,614	73,410	195,620
Gold.....	6,084	73,534	8,450	135,536
Repeaters, etc.....			154	2,660
Other.....	799	7,319	2,796	28,866
Movements, finished.....			839	2,431
France.....	128,464	445,724	612,922	1,461,504
Watches:				
Base metal.....	79,991	126,244	389,742	729,314
Silver.....	23,833	69,104	76,265	269,739
Gold.....	8,177	154,143	16,457	186,083
Repeaters, etc.....	2,097	20,262	4,082	25,356
Other.....	5,081	34,879	63,139	200,855
Movements, finished.....	6,286	17,270	5,718	17,984
Cases, finished.....		19,792	57,519	33,173
Germany.....	1,101,845	3,360,608	1,631,012	3,050,019
Watches:				
Base metal.....	446,523	650,824	1,052,480	1,134,047
Silver.....	411,578	1,031,536	407,970	931,938
Gold.....	110,969	1,215,970	67,382	702,569
Repeaters, etc.....	3,399	42,584	2,491	20,575
Other.....	33,753	188,631	46,880	224,583
Movements, finished.....	95,608	117,485	8,872	13,394
Cases, finished.....		113,573	44,937	22,913
Italy.....	339,172	1,392,122	492,632	1,004,936
Watches:				
Base metal.....	135,325	255,403	141,915	249,629
Silver.....	142,442	325,025	123,581	305,141
Gold.....	53,317	679,796	29,041	352,459
Repeaters, etc.....	1,200	31,789	766	11,177
Other.....	4,771	49,644	10,999	53,659
Movements, finished.....	2,117	3,813	3,665	4,792
Cases, finished.....		46,652	152,665	27,779
Netherlands.....	173,438	294,857	230,295	368,586
Watches:				
Base metal.....	70,164	58,388	110,166	86,500
Silver.....	85,121	114,370	98,664	137,514
Gold.....	16,013	106,663	16,792	119,675
Repeaters, etc.....	135	3,463	419	9,038
Other.....	2,005	9,005	3,967	13,762
Cases, finished.....		2,938	297	2,097
Russia.....	225,690	1,901,079	1,587,550	1,883,175
Watches:				
Base metal.....	81,995	299,644	109,186	378,370
Silver.....	33,990	163,061	33,416	139,594
Gold.....	13,935	391,718	11,767	273,116

Articles and destinations.	1914		1915	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
Russia—Continued.				
Watches—Continued.				
Repeaters, etc.....	1,172	\$23,776	707	\$8,328
Other.....	2,608	54,044	1,700	19,885
Movements, finished.....	91,990	156,085	252,346	432,922
Cases, finished.....		812,731	1,178,428	630,036
Spain.....	349,678	822,462	395,625	1,001,216
Watches:				
Base metal.....	222,845	248,561	260,163	288,196
Silver.....	88,150	201,856	103,450	227,721
Gold.....	17,142	265,539	19,037	329,435
Repeaters, etc.....	657	17,659	522	14,014
Other.....	10,884	86,335	22,453	134,850
Cases, finished.....		2,510		
Sweden.....	95,116	334,804	119,735	438,151
Watches:				
Base metal.....	28,780	47,005	37,308	68,261
Silver.....	56,880	165,241	70,610	206,995
Gold.....	6,680	89,239	9,115	141,955
Repeaters, etc.....			226	2,456
Other.....	473	2,444	1,130	12,002
Movements, finished.....	2,303	8,807	934	2,239
Cases, finished.....		21,468	412	4,243
United Kingdom.....	3,111,990	4,080,489	5,411,792	6,418,551
Watches:				
Base metal.....	2,246,705	1,615,801	3,841,469	2,884,242
Silver.....	617,141	890,857	1,014,366	1,899,426
Gold.....	204,499	1,261,490	304,018	1,212,741
Repeaters, etc.....	4,350	43,438	3,362	26,239
Other.....	39,090	89,333	86,629	149,098
Movements, finished.....	100,205	149,457	148,841	245,090
Cases, finished.....		30,113	113,167	31,615

It should be noted that in the foregoing table the "number" total does not represent the full number of watches, movements, and cases exported but is merely the sum of the items given.

Imports and Exports of Finished Parts.

Other finished watch parts, valued at \$282,506, were imported and \$1,850,094 worth exported by the Swiss in 1915. Especially noticeable are the imports from France and the exports to Russia, Germany, and the United States.

It is not generally known that the Swiss watch trade is dependent in considerable measure upon France for watch parts. These, in normal times, are imported from the Savoie and the Department of the Doubs. Since the war, however, there has been a serious interruption in these supplies—a situation that may result in the manufacture hereafter of many such articles in Switzerland, especially watch wheels and bolts. The Valley de la Brevine or Cote aux Fees is mentioned as the probable home for this new Swiss project, but its culmination will depend entirely upon the prices at which the Swiss will be able to produce the articles required for the watch trade.

Switzerland's imports and exports of watch parts in 1915 were as follows:

Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.
United States.....	\$98	\$192,713	Norway.....		\$4,064
Argentina.....		4,620	Portugal.....		2,847
Australia.....		4,659	Roumania.....		2,400
Austria-Hungary.....	219	70,406	Russia.....		819,516
British India.....		7,783	Spain.....		22,465
Canada.....		4,856	Sweden.....		15,564
Denmark.....		5,947	United Kingdom.....	\$1,490	137,564
Egypt.....		3,180	Other.....		12,541
France.....	252,324	112,409	Total, 1915.....	282,506	1,850,094
Germany.....	28,158	195,882	Total, 1914.....	259,225	1,578,475
Italy.....	217	121,565	Increase in 1915.....	23,281	271,619
Japan.....		80,276			
Netherlands.....		3,637			

Italy Forging Ahead in Jewel Trade.

For 50 years Switzerland has been supplying the watch-jewel trade of the world, and only in recent years has its supremacy been threatened by Italy. According to the Swiss, it will not be long before the Italians will have the entire market to themselves. The Italians work much cheaper, it is claimed. Jewels are from 15 to 20 per cent higher since the war.

Swiss imports and exports of watch jewels in 1915 were as follows:

Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.
United States.....	\$11,348	\$468,520	Russia.....		\$2,518
Australia.....	482	2,420	Sweden.....		5,987
Austria-Hungary.....	13,192	12,713	United Kingdom.....	\$17,649	17,011
British India.....	4,254	1,214	Other.....	2,044	3,275
France.....	44,894	41,964	Total, 1915.....	199,766	711,974
Germany.....	94,908	90,296	Total, 1914.....	89,709	646,507
Italy.....	10,850	20,095	Increase in 1915.....	110,057	65,467
Japan.....	145	14,929			
Netherlands.....		31,023			

The exports to the United States consisted largely of garnet bars, rubies, sapphires, and diamond jewel prints.

Swiss Crystal Trade an Outcome of the War.

The war also greatly stimulated the watch-crystal trade of the country; only since the outbreak of hostilities have crystals been manufactured in large quantities in Switzerland. Two factories are now occupied in the production of watch crystals, and it is claimed that the country is nearly independent of foreign supplies. War prices are 10 to 15 per cent above normal.

A most gratifying increase in exports in 1915 over the 1914 figures is reported for these goods. Exports rose from \$141,890 in 1914 to \$388,732 in 1915. Of the latter, goods to the value of \$145,982 went to the United States and \$98,041 to Great Britain. The shares of other countries in the 1915 trade were:

Countries.	Pounds.	Value.	Countries.	Pounds.	Value.
United States.....	86,862	\$145,982	Roumania.....	2,425	\$5,078
Austria-Hungary.....	.....	139	Russia.....	14,109	31,908
British India.....	1,984	3,895	Spain.....	8,377	14,867
Canada.....	3,747	9,951	Sweden.....	5,070	11,374
China.....	881	2,469	United Kingdom.....	60,627	98,041
Egypt.....	2,204	3,833	Other.....	7,054	11,409
France.....	6,613	18,913	Total, 1915.....	219,352	388,732
Germany.....	1,102	3,585	Total, 1914.....	87,964	141,890
Greece.....	1,763	2,508	Increase in 1915.....	131,388	246,842
Italy.....	13,668	20,336			
Portugal.....	2,866	4,384			

Of the year's imports of watch crystals, amounting to 204,134 pounds, Germany supplied 196,186 pounds, Austria-Hungary 4,188, France 3,320, and Italy 440. In 1914, 62,611 pounds of these crystals were imported, an increase for the year under review of 141,523 pounds. The value for 1915, \$250,205, was \$179,142 greater than that for 1914.

AMERICAN WATCH INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

The 45 years during which the United States Census Bureau has separately listed American watchmaking establishments have witnessed a centralization of the industry and a fivefold expansion in the value of the output. In 1869 there were in the United States 37 establishments making watches, watch parts, and watch movements, employing 1,816 wage earners, or an average working staff of less than 50. In 1914 there were but 15 such establishments, yet they employed 12,390 wage earners, or an average per establishment of 825. In 1869 the 37 establishments for which returns were made used materials that cost \$412,783, and their combined output was valued at \$2,819,080; in 1914 the 15 factories used materials that cost \$2,670,000 and wrought these into watches, parts, and movements worth \$14,275,000.

The half-century's growth of the American watch industry might be thus stated:

Calendar year.	Number of establishments.	Number of wage earners.	Wages.	Cost of materials.	Value of products.
Watches:					
1869.....	37	1,816	\$1,304,304	\$412,783	\$2,819,080
1879.....	11	3,346	1,712,276	962,224	3,271,244
1889.....	19	6,595	3,687,808	995,740	6,051,066
1899.....	13	6,880	3,686,723	1,391,318	6,822,611
1904.....	14	10,724	6,024,400	2,258,663	11,866,400
1909.....	13	10,684	6,068,700	2,186,825	11,771,065
1914.....	15	12,390	7,524,000	2,670,000	14,275,000
Watchcases:					
1869.....	49	703	555,015	1,152,979	2,333,340
1879.....	27	1,758	976,041	2,812,922	4,599,314
1889.....	45	3,679	1,896,587	5,022,455	8,618,479
1899.....	30	3,907	1,294,847	4,393,647	7,783,960
1904.....	28	4,221	2,170,507	4,428,627	8,626,504
1909.....	29	4,569	2,428,262	5,034,377	10,514,854
1914.....	31	3,514	1,938,000	4,002,000	7,831,000
Watch and clock materials:					
1869.....	30	322	152,074	244,367	573,631
1879.....	22	324	101,050	140,315	350,695
1889.....	26	547	258,422	326,308	831,348
1899.....	20	331	152,234	105,549	345,347
1904.....	17	385	182,475	107,361	428,602
1909.....	26	643	287,863	217,742	675,232
1914.....	25	670	280,000	343,000	1,015,000

In the above table the item "watches" comprises complete watches, watch parts, and watch movements; the "watchcases" embrace gold, gold-filled, platinum, silver, nickel, and brass cases, and a few of other metals; the "materials" consist chiefly of balance staffs, springs, jewels, other watch materials, and clock cases.

Six Years' Imports of Foreign Watches and Parts.

The American-made watch is the popular timepiece in the United States. In 1914, as shown, the domestic production was valued at \$14,275,000; that year's domestic exports totaled \$1,019,000 and its imports of foreign watches \$3,157,000; that is to say, of the \$16,000,000 worth of new watches that find purchasers annually in the United States, one-fifth are of foreign manufacture. Switzerland supplies from 75 to 80 per cent of these foreign watches in normal times; last year its share was nearly 90 per cent. (These figures include "parts," as no official data exist relative to the trade in watches alone.)

However, for a study of the foreign trade of the United States in watches and parts the figures for fiscal years ended June 30 better serve the purpose at present than do those for calendar years, since by using this period statistics for the three "war" years of 1914, 1915, and 1916 can be contrasted with those for 1911, 1912, and 1913, when conditions were normal. For the six fiscal years named the imports of watches and parts into the United States and the countries of origin were:

Imported from—	Fiscal year ended June 30—					
	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Austria-Hungary.....	\$1,032	\$923	\$5,389	\$9,599	\$19,635	.....
Belgium.....	6,633	4,930	4,910	5,152	4,162	.....
France.....	118,566	172,417	185,148	185,255	107,567	\$116,617
Germany.....	221,276	240,520	273,753	320,903	220,813	17,348
Italy.....	62,201	58,485	57,864	70,512	151,380	118,120
Netherlands.....	8,562	5,514	2,849	1,981	2,978	513
Switzerland.....	1,796,522	1,749,358	1,997,300	2,701,581	2,411,266	3,019,090
United Kingdom.....	73,135	78,819	84,409	86,941	115,303	81,519
Canada.....	1,352	1,794	1,849	3,252	2,379	737
All other countries.....	1,400	919	2,213	1,582	4,168	8,184
Total.....	2,293,679	2,313,677	2,615,744	3,386,738	3,639,651	3,362,758

Recovery in Export Trade.

The export trade of the United States in watches and parts fell off nearly 40 per cent in 1915, as contrasted with 1914, and was less than half the value of the trade during 1912, the record year of the last six; but 1916 witnessed a sharp recovery, the value of the exports being 67 per cent greater than in 1915 and only 20 per cent below the record year 1912. Canada and the United Kingdom are the chief buyers, but American watches and parts find their way to remote markets as well. The distribution of the domestic exports during the last six years was:

Exported to—	Fiscal year ended June 30—					
	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Belgium.....	\$445	\$2,725	\$27,353	\$3,046	\$50	.....
France.....	1,006	890	759	4,029	290	\$12,022
Germany.....	190,396	177,041	185,602	98,921	2,937	.....
Switzerland.....	10,324	9,735	17,058	3,490	1,110	458
United Kingdom.....	496,522	556,948	473,986	490,733	363,778	553,261
Canada.....	687,013	906,759	920,194	705,111	465,558	834,899
Panama.....	4,067	789	772	1,625	2,920	5,113
Mexico.....	15,862	10,216	5,519	4,528	2,464	2,788
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	781	1,439	2,694	2,857	1,314	3,080
Jamaica.....	1,701	2,040	943	1,334	2,787	1,541
Cuba.....	2,846	1,852	8,094	2,844	4,814	6,289
Argentina.....	18,319	35,464	43,938	43,720	9,470	10,820
Brazil.....	33,946	17,555	8,576	6,150	3,706	2,264
Chile.....	11,043	17,690	19,979	18,553	3,410	0,582
Uruguay.....	549	94	4,384	5,867	27	81
British India.....	2,810	1,052	4,315	66	1,740	4,392
Japan.....	8,480	69,308	10,037	8,292	2,469	285
Australia.....	33,533	38,781	22,209	34,639	24,274	30,817
New Zealand.....	9,623	4,684	4,503	5,750	1,313	1,303
Philippine Islands.....	3,048	2,457	5,199	4,813	7,830	2,966
British South Africa.....	5,767	3,517	3,811	2,245	1,906	10,470
All other countries.....	22,790	19,496	13,374	11,801	12,309	25,076
Total.....	1,560,870	1,680,677	1,783,249	1,460,424	914,776	1,524,478

BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBER INDUSTRY.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Dec. 15.]

When the figures for 1916 are compiled they will doubtless show considerable improvement in the lumber industry in British Columbia. Some of the big mill plants have been idle all the year, but every month there is new activity. Increases in prices from 10 to 20 per cent have taken place. Production of shingles has been well maintained all through the summer, when usually there is a quiet period, and prices to-day are higher than ever before. Prices are, for instance: Perfections, \$2.90; XXXXX, \$2.45; Eurekas, \$2.70; and XXX, \$2.15. The price of the better grades of shingles is almost \$1 more a thousand than two years ago. This branch of the lumber industry has felt the lack of labor more since bolts have become scarce, but two or three large plants that had to stop operations temporarily have resumed cutting. Bolts are higher in price, being \$7 to \$7.50 per cord, while cedar logs for shingle purposes are \$12, also a high figure.

Shingle shipments from British Columbia to the United States for first nine months of 1915 were 879,191,000, and in 1916 for the corresponding period 890,745,000.

Log and Lumber Production.

Log production to the end of September amounted to 734,087,410 feet, which is 45,275,712 feet more than for the whole of 1915. In 1914 logs scaled were 555,891,197 feet; so that the cut for 1916 probably will be nearly double that of two years ago. Even at that there is no surplus on the market, with prices firm at ordinary figures, although cedar lumber is a record, being \$16 per 1,000 feet of logs.

The lumber production of British Columbia sawmills in 1912 reached 902,000,000 feet, cut by coast mills, and 360,000,000 feet by the manufacturers in the interior. In 1915 the cut was lower than for any of the five previous years, being 428,000,000 feet and 155,000,000 feet, respectively. The production in 1916 will compare favorably with that of any year except 1912, for many coast plants that had been idle were cutting, and almost every mill in the interior has been active.

The best year of production in the lumber industry, as shown by provincial figures, was 1913, when it was \$33,650,000. In 1914 it was \$28,680,000, and in 1915, \$29,150,000. In 1916 it will be greater than in 1915.

Exports of Logs and Lumber.

Exports of logs in 1915 were 106,874,935 feet, a large figure as compared with previous years, because the embargo on exports was lifted in the latter part of 1914. Up to the end of August the exports amounted to 42,168,000 feet. The embargo will be replaced once there is local demand for what logs are being cut.

Exports of lumber by water were greater in 1915 than for any of the five previous years, being 70,000,000 feet. In 1916 the amount will not be so large, but it will nevertheless be a good average figure. For the first six months of 1916 exports of lumber were 18,728,354 feet, as compared with 20,362,111 feet in 1915.

AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The following American consular officers are on leave of absence in the United States, and will be glad to confer with business men and commercial organizations relative to conditions in their respective jurisdictions. The consul's time is available primarily for personal interviews. He has limited facilities for correspondence, and except in urgent cases letters should be directed to the consulate.

Name.	Post.	Expiration of venue.	Address.
Blake, Maxwell.....	Tangier, Morocco.....	Mar. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Brett, Homer.....	La Guaira, Venezuela.....	Feb. 10	2418 Seventh Street, Meridian, Miss.
Bucklin, George A.....	Bordeaux, France.....	Jan. 13	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Dow, Edward A.....	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Jan. 17	Do.
Eager, George Eugene.....	Barmen, Germany.....	Jan. 2	12 Penobscot Street, Norwich, Conn.
Hanson, George C.....	Swatow, China.....	Jan. 30	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Jenkins, Douglas.....	Riga, Russia.....	Jan. 24	48 Savage Street, Charleston, S. C.
Latham, Charles L.....	Dundee, Scotland.....	Jan. 15	The Mendota, Washington, D. C.
Listoe, Soren.....	Rotterdam, Netherlands.	...do.....	"Islington," Walkerford, Amherst County, Va.
Sauer, Emil.....	Cologne, Germany.....	Feb. 1	Department of State, Washington, D. C.
Smith, James A.....	Calcutta, India.....	Jan. 15	Do.

NEW FACTORY LAW IN JAPAN.

[Extract from Commercial Magoya, quoted in Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Dec. 18.]

The new factory law of Japan, which was to have gone into effect last June, was finally put into effect September 1. Twelve hours a day is the maximum number of working hours provided for laborers. The chief of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry in the Department of Agriculture has made the following statement:

The application of this new factory law might be termed a primary step toward solving the question of female employment, affording better treatment of laborers, and providing for them a means of improving their moral surroundings and physical conditions. Roughly speaking, the industries of Japan are constituted largely of fiber industries—that is, the majority of the factories are engaged in making or supplying materials for clothes, such as cotton-yarn factories, spinning mills, and companies of a similar nature, which necessitate juvenile labor. In large factories alone in Japan there are 800,000 work girls employed, and if those in the smaller factories were included the figures would reach about 2,000,000. The new factory law is expected to lead to great improvement in labor conditions.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: Room 409, Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 ATLANTA: 521 Post Office Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: C., N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Ry. Co.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

Agency.....	23389	Motors, rowboat.....	23389
Awnings.....	23388	Nets, hair.....	23392
Bags, paper, hemp, jute, and flax.....	23388	Paper, wrapping.....	23388
Canvas.....	23388	Silk, artificial.....	23390
Brushes.....	23393	Shoe polish.....	23391
Dyestuffs.....	23385	Sponges, rubber.....	23393
Fibers, raffia and ureno lobata.....	23395	Tarpaulins.....	23388
Heels, rubber.....	23391	Tropical products.....	23395
Machines, glue.....	23387	Vanilla.....	23395
Machines, sewing.....	23386	Vessels, fiber.....	23394
Manicuring sets.....	23393	Wax.....	23395
Mills, cane.....	23394		

23385.*—A man in Spain wishes to purchase dyestuffs for the textile industry. Cash will be paid against documents. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. destination. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23386.*—A company in England is in the market for hand sewing machines for domestic use. Payment will be made by three days' draft, accompanied by shipping documents. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Reference.

23387.*—A man in Venezuela wishes to purchase machines for making glue, as a by-product of a tannery. Machines are desired with a capacity of about 275 pounds per day. Correspondence is preferred in Spanish, but may be in English.

23388.†—A merchant in France is in the market for paper, especially wrapping paper and paper bags; also awnings, canvas, and tarpaulins. He desires bags of hemp, jute, flax, and paper suitable for coal, sugar, etc. He also desires the agency for above-mentioned articles. Quotations should be made c. i. f. French ports. Correspondence may be in English. References.

23389.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to secure an agency for the sale of motors for portable rowboats. Correspondence may be in French or German. References.

23390.*—An importer in Spain desires to purchase artificial silk in skeins. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or c. i. f. destination.

23391.‡—A man in Spain is desirous of obtaining samples and prices of shoe polish and rubber heels. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

23392.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to purchase hair nets for women in all colors and shapes. Quotations should be made c. i. f. European port. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence should be in French or German. References.

23393.*—A merchant in Spain desires to purchase toilet articles, such as brushes, rubber sponges, manicuring sets, etc. He also wishes to arrange to secure an agency proposition. Payment will be made on receipt of goods. Quotations should be made c. i. f. destination. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

23394.‡—A man in the British West Indies desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of small power cane mills and fiber vessels of 1 cubic foot capacity.



